CITIGROUP INC Form 424B8 November 30, 2018

Pricing Supplement No. 2018-USNCH1641 to Product Supplement No. EA-02-06 dated April 7, 2017, Underlying Supplement

No. 7 dated July 16, 2018, Prospectus Supplement and Prospectus each dated April 7, 2017

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(8)

Registration Statement Nos. 333-216372 and 333-216372-01

Dated November 27, 2018

Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. \$2,826,680 Trigger GEARS Linked to the S&P 500[®] Index Due December 2, 2021

All payments due on the securities are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Citigroup Inc.

Investment Description

The Trigger GEARS offered by this pricing supplement (the "securities") are unsecured, unsubordinated debt obligations of Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. (the "issuer"), guaranteed by Citigroup Inc. (the "guarantor"), with a return at maturity linked to the performance of the S&P 500® Index (the "underlying") from the initial underlying level to the final underlying level. If the underlying return is positive, the issuer will repay the stated principal amount of the securities at maturity and pay a return equal to the underlying return multiplied by the upside gearing of 1.29. If the underlying return is zero or negative and the final underlying level is greater than or equal to the downside threshold, the issuer will repay the stated principal amount of the securities at maturity. However, if the underlying return is negative and the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold, you will be fully exposed to the negative underlying return and the issuer will pay you less than the stated principal amount at maturity, resulting in a loss on the stated principal amount to investors that is proportionate to the percentage decline in the level of the underlying. In this case, you will have full downside exposure to the underlying from the initial underlying level to the final underlying level, and could lose all of your initial investment. Investing in the securities involves significant risks. You will not receive coupon payments during the 3-year term of the securities. You may lose a substantial portion or all of your initial investment. You will not receive dividends or other distributions paid on any stocks included in the underlying. The contingent repayment of the stated principal amount applies only if you hold the securities to maturity. Any payment on the securities, including any repayment of the stated principal amount provided at maturity, is subject to the creditworthiness of the issuer and the guarantor. If the issuer and the guarantor were to default on their obligations, you might not receive any amounts owed to you under the securities and you could lose your entire investment.

Features

Enhanced Growth Potential — If the underlying return is positive, the issuer will repay the stated principal amount of qthe securities at maturity and pay a return equal to the underlying return multiplied by the upside gearing. The upside gearing feature will provide leveraged exposure to any positive performance of the underlying.

q**Downside Exposure with Contingent Repayment of Principal at Maturity** — If the underlying return is zero or negative and the final underlying level is greater than or equal to the downside threshold, the issuer will repay the stated principal amount of the securities at maturity. However, if the underlying return is negative and the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold, the issuer will pay less than the stated principal amount of the

securities at maturity, resulting in a loss on the stated principal amount to investors that is proportionate to the percentage decline in the level of the underlying. The contingent repayment of the stated principal amount applies only if you hold the securities to maturity. You might lose some or all of your initial investment. Any payment on the securities is subject to the creditworthiness of the issuer and the guarantor. If the issuer and the guarantor were to default on their obligations, you might not receive any amounts owed to you under the securities and you could lose your entire investment.

Key Dates

Trade date November 27, 2018

Settlement date¹ November 30, 2018

Final valuation date² November 29, 2021

Maturity date December 2, 2021

See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution" in this pricing supplement for additional information.

See page PS-3 for additional details.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS: THE SECURITIES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY RISKIER THAN CONVENTIONAL DEBT SECURITIES. THE ISSUER IS NOT NECESSARILY OBLIGATED TO REPAY YOUR INITIAL INVESTMENT IN THE SECURITIES AT MATURITY, AND THE SECURITIES CAN HAVE THE FULL DOWNSIDE MARKET RISK OF THE UNDERLYING. THIS MARKET RISK IS IN ADDITION TO THE CREDIT RISK INHERENT IN PURCHASING AN OBLIGATION OF CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS HOLDINGS INC. THAT IS GUARANTEED BY CITIGROUP INC. YOU SHOULD NOT PURCHASE THE SECURITIES IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE SIGNIFICANT RISKS INVOLVED IN INVESTING IN THE SECURITIES. THE SECURITIES WILL NOT BE LISTED ON ANY SECURITIES EXCHANGE AND, ACCORDINGLY, MAY HAVE LIMITED OR NO LIQUIDITY.

YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE RISKS DESCRIBED UNDER "SUMMARY RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE PS-4 OF THIS PRICING SUPPLEMENT AND UNDER "RISK FACTORS RELATING TO THE SECURITIES" BEGINNING ON PAGE EA-6 OF THE ACCOMPANYING PRODUCT SUPPLEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF THE SECURITIES. EVENTS RELATING TO ANY OF THOSE RISKS, OR OTHER RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES, COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE VALUE OF, AND THE RETURN ON, YOUR SECURITIES. YOU MAY LOSE SOME OR ALL OF YOUR INITIAL INVESTMENT IN THE SECURITIES.

Security Offering

We are offering Trigger GEARS Linked to the S&P 500® Index. Any return at maturity will be determined by the performance of the underlying. The securities are our unsecured, unsubordinated debt obligations, guaranteed by Citigroup Inc., and are offered for a minimum investment of 100 securities at the issue price described below.

Underlying	Initial Underlying Level	Upside Gearing	Downside Threshold	CUSIP/ ISIN
S&P 500® Index (Ticker: SPX)	2,682.17	1.29	2,011.63, 75.00% of the initial underlying level	17326X769 / US17326X7690

See "Additional Terms Specific to the Securities" in this pricing supplement. The securities will have the terms specified in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus, as supplemented by this pricing supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the securities or passed upon the accuracy or the adequacy of this pricing supplement or the accompanying product supplement, underlying supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The securities are not bank deposits and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

Issue Price⁽¹⁾ Underwriting Discount⁽²⁾ Proceeds to Issuer

Per security \$10.00 \$0.00 \$10.00

Total \$2,826,680.00 \$0.00 \$2,826,680.00

⁽²⁾ CGMI, acting as principal, has agreed to purchase from Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc., and Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. has agreed to sell to CGMI, the aggregate stated principal amount of the securities set forth above for \$10.00 per security. UBS Financial Services Inc. ("UBS"), acting as agent for sales of the securities, has agreed to purchase from CGMI, and CGMI has agreed to sell to UBS, all of the securities for \$10.00 per security. UBS will not receive any underwriting discount for any security it sells in this offering. UBS proposes to offer the securities to the public at a price of \$10.00 per security. Investors that purchase and hold the securities in fee-based advisory accounts will pay advisory fees to UBS based on the amount of assets held in those accounts. For additional information on the distribution of the securities, see "Supplemental Plan of Distribution" in this pricing supplement. CGMI and its affiliates may profit from hedging activity related to this offering, even if the value of the securities declines. See "Use of Proceeds and Hedging" in the accompanying prospectus.

Citigroup Global Markets Inc. UBS Financial Services Inc.

⁽¹⁾ On the date of this pricing supplement, the estimated value of the securities is \$9.925 per security, which is less than the issue price. The estimated value of the securities is based on proprietary pricing models of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. ("**CGMI**") and our internal funding rate. It is not an indication of actual profit to CGMI or other of our affiliates, nor is it an indication of the price, if any, at which CGMI or any other person may be willing to buy the securities from you at any time after issuance. See "Valuation of the Securities" in this pricing supplement.

Additional Terms Specific to the Securities

The terms of the securities are set forth in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus, as supplemented by this pricing supplement. The accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus contain important disclosures that are not repeated in this pricing supplement. For example, certain events may occur that could affect your payment at maturity. These events and their consequences are described in the accompanying product supplement in the sections "Description of the Securities—Certain Additional Terms for Securities Linked to an Underlying Index—Consequences of a Market Disruption Event; Postponement of a Valuation Date" and "—Discontinuance or Material Modification of an Underlying Index," and not in this pricing supplement. The accompanying underlying supplement contains important disclosures regarding the underlying that are not repeated in this pricing supplement. It is important that you read the accompanying product supplement, underlying supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus together with this pricing supplement in connection with your investment in the securities. Certain terms used but not defined in this pricing supplement are defined in the accompanying product supplement. You may access the accompanying product supplement, underlying supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus on the SEC website at www.sec.gov as follows (or if such address has changed, by reviewing our filings for April 7, 2017 on the SEC website):

" Product Supplement No. EA-02-06 dated April 7, 2017:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/200245/000095010317003407/dp74979 424b2-par.htm

Underlying Supplement No. 7 dated July 16, 2018:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/200245/000095010318008530/dp93384 424b2-us7.htm

Prospectus Supplement and Prospectus each dated April 7, 2017:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/831001/000119312517116348/d370918d424b2.htm

References to "Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc.," "we," "our" and "us" refer to Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries. References to "Citigroup Inc." refer to Citigroup Inc. and not to any of its subsidiaries. In this pricing supplement, "securities" refers to the Trigger GEARS Linked to the S&P 5@Index that are offered hereby, unless the context otherwise requires.

This pricing supplement, together with the documents listed above, contains the terms of the securities and supersedes all other prior or contemporaneous oral statements as well as any other written materials including preliminary or indicative pricing terms, correspondence, trade ideas, structures for implementation, sample structures, brochures or other educational materials of ours. The description in this pricing supplement of the particular terms of the securities supplements, and, to the extent inconsistent with, replaces, the descriptions of the general terms and provisions of the

debt securities set forth in the accompanying product supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in "Summary Risk Factors" in this pricing supplement and "Risk Factors Relating to the Securities" in the accompanying product supplement, as the securities involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors in connection with your decision to invest in the securities.

Investor Suitability

The suitability considerations identified below are not exhaustive. Whether or not the securities are a suitable investment for you will depend on your individual circumstances, and you should reach an investment decision only after you and your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors have carefully considered the suitability of an investment in the securities in light of your particular circumstances. You should also review "Summary Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-4 of this pricing supplement, "The S&P 50® Index" beginning on page PS-10 of this pricing supplement, "Risk Factors Relating to the Securities" beginning on page EA-6 of the accompanying product supplement and "Equity Index Descriptions—The S&P U.S. Indices" beginning on page US-105 of the accompanying underlying supplement.

The securities may	v be suitable for	you if, among o	other considerations:
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.. You fully understand the risks inherent in an investment in the securities, including the risk of loss of your entire initial investment.

You can tolerate a loss of all or a substantial portion of your initial investment and are willing to make an investment "that may have the full downside market risk of an investment in the underlying or in the stocks included in the underlying.

- "You believe that the level of the underlying will increase over the term of the securities."
- "You are willing to invest in the securities based on the upside gearing indicated on the cover page hereof."
- "You can tolerate fluctuations in the value of the securities prior to maturity that may be similar to or exceed the downside fluctuations in the level of the underlying.
- "You do not seek current income from your investment and are willing to forgo dividends or any other distributions paid on the stocks included in the underlying for the term of the securities."
 - You understand and accept the risks associated with the underlying.

You are willing and able to hold the securities to maturity, and accept that there may be little or no secondary market "for the securities and that any secondary market will depend in large part on the price, if any, at which CGMI is willing to purchase the securities.

You are willing to assume the credit risk of Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and Citigroup Inc. for all ...payments under the securities, and understand that if Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and Citigroup Inc. default on their obligations you might not receive any amounts due to you, including any repayment of the stated principal amount.

The securities may *not* be suitable for you if, among other considerations:

- "You do not fully understand the risks inherent in an investment in the securities, including the risk of loss of your entire initial investment."
 - "You require an investment designed to guarantee a full return of the stated principal amount at maturity."

You cannot tolerate the loss of all or a substantial portion of your initial investment, or you are not willing to make "an investment that may have the full downside market risk of an investment in the underlying or in the stocks included in the underlying.

- ". You believe that the level of the underlying will decline during the term of the securities and the final underlying level is likely to close below the downside threshold on the final valuation date.
- " You are not willing to invest in the securities based on the upside gearing indicated on the cover page hereof.
- "You cannot tolerate fluctuations in the value of the securities prior to maturity that may be similar to or exceed the downside fluctuations in the level of the underlying.
- "You seek current income from this investment or prefer to receive the dividends and any other distributions paid on the stocks included in the underlying for the term of the securities.
 - You do not understand or accept the risks associated with the underlying.
- "You are unwilling or unable to hold the securities to maturity, or you seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.

.. You are not willing to assume the credit risk of Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and Citigroup Inc. for all payments under the securities, including any repayment of the stated principal amount.

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Final Terms

Issuer Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc.

Guarantee All payments due on the securities are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by Citigroup Inc.

Issue price 100% of the stated principal amount per security

Stated principal

amount

\$10.00 per security

Term Approximately 3 years
Trade date November 27, 2018

Settlement date

November 30, 2018. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution" in this pricing supplement for

additional information.

Final valuation date¹ November 29, 2021 Maturity date December 2, 2021

Underlying S&P 500® Index (Ticker: SPX)

Downside threshold 75.00% of the initial underlying level, as set forth on the cover page hereof

Upside gearing 1.29

Payment at maturity (per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities)

If the underlying return is positive, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. will pay you a cash payment per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities that provides you with the stated principal amount of \$10.00 plus a return equal to the underlying return multiplied by the upside gearing, calculated as follows:

 $10.00 \times (1 + (underlying return \times upside gearing))$

If the underlying return is zero or negative and the final underlying level is greater than or equal to the downside threshold on the final valuation date, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. will pay you a cash payment of \$10.00 per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities.

If the underlying return is negative and the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold on the final valuation date, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. will pay you a cash payment at maturity less than the stated principal amount of \$10.00 per security, resulting in a loss on the stated principal amount that is proportionate to the percentage decline in the level of the underlying, calculated as follows:

 $$10.00 \times (1 + underlying return)$

In this scenario, you will be exposed to the full negative underlying return, and you will lose a substantial portion or all of the stated principal amount in an amount proportionate to the percentage decline in the underlying.

Underlying return final underlying level – initial underlying level

initial underlying level

Initial underlying

level

The closing level of the underlying on the trade date, as set forth on the cover hereof

Final underlying level The closing level of the underlying on the final valuation date

INVESTING IN THE SECURITIES INVOLVES SIGNIFICANT RISKS. YOU MAY LOSE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OR ALL OF YOUR INITIAL INVESTMENT. ANY PAYMENT ON THE SECURITIES, INCLUDING ANY REPAYMENT OF THE STATED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT AT MATURITY, IS SUBJECT TO THE CREDITWORTHINESS OF THE ISSUER AND THE GUARANTOR. IF CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS HOLDINGS INC. AND CITIGROUP INC. WERE TO DEFAULT ON THEIR OBLIGATIONS, YOU MIGHT NOT RECEIVE ANY AMOUNTS OWED TO YOU UNDER THE SECURITIES AND YOU COULD LOSE YOUR ENTIRE INVESTMENT.

Investment Timeline

Trade The closing level of the underlying (initial underlying level) is observed, the upside gearing is set and

date: downside threshold is determined.

Maturity The final underlying level is determined on the final valuation date and the underlying return is

date: calculated.

If the underlying return is positive, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. will pay you a cash payment per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities that provides you with the stated principal amount of \$10.00 plus a return equal to the underlying return multiplied by the upside gearing, calculated as follows:

 $10.00 \times (1 + (underlying return \times upside gearing))$

If the underlying return is zero or negative and the final underlying level is greater than or equal to the downside threshold on the final valuation date, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. will pay you a cash payment of \$10.00 per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities.

If the underlying return is negative and the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold on the final valuation date, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. will pay you a cash payment at maturity less than the stated principal amount of \$10.00 per security, resulting in a loss on the stated principal amount that is proportionate to the percentage decline in the level of the underlying, calculated as follows:

 $$10.00 \times (1 + underlying return)$

In this scenario, you will be exposed to the full negative underlying return, and you will lose a substantial portion or all of the stated principal amount in an amount proportionate to the percentage decline in the underlying.

Subject to postponement as described under "Description of the Securities—Certain Additional Terms for Securities ¹Linked to an Underlying Index—Consequences of a Market Disruption Event; Postponement of a Valuation Date" in the accompanying product supplement.

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Summary Risk Factors

An investment in the securities is significantly riskier than an investment in conventional debt securities. The securities are subject to all of the risks associated with an investment in our conventional debt securities (guaranteed by Citigroup Inc.), including the risk that we and Citigroup Inc. may default on our obligations under the securities, and are also subject to risks associated with the underlying. Accordingly, the securities are suitable only for investors who are capable of understanding the complexities and risks of the securities. You should consult your own financial, tax and legal advisors as to the risks of an investment in the securities and the suitability of the securities in light of your particular circumstances.

The following is a summary of certain key risk factors for investors in the securities. You should read this summary together with the more detailed description of risks relating to an investment in the securities contained in the section "Risk Factors Relating to the Securities" beginning on page EA-6 in the accompanying product supplement. You should also carefully read the risk factors included in the accompanying prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus, including Citigroup Inc.'s most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, which describe risks relating to the business of Citigroup Inc. more generally.

You may lose some or all of your investment — The securities differ from ordinary debt securities in that we will not necessarily repay the full stated principal amount of your securities at maturity. Instead, your return on the securities is linked to the performance of the underlying and will depend on whether, and the extent to which, the underlying return is positive or negative. If the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold, you will lose 1% of the stated principal amount of the securities for every 1% by which the final underlying level is less than the initial underlying level. There is no minimum payment at maturity on the securities, and you may lose up to all of your investment in the securities.

The reduced market risk offered by the securities is contingent, and you will have full downside exposure to the underlying if the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold — If the final underlying level is below the downside threshold, the contingent reduced market risk with respect to a limited range of potential depreciation of the underlying offered by the securities will not apply and you will lose 1% of the stated principal amount of the securities for every 1% by which the final underlying level is less than the initial underlying level. The securities will have full downside exposure to the decline of the underlying if the final underlying level is below the downside threshold. As a result, you may lose your entire investment in the securities. Further, this contingent reduced market risk applies only if you hold the securities to maturity. If you are able to sell the securities prior to maturity you may have to sell them for a loss even if the underlying has not declined below the downside threshold.

The securities do not pay interest — Unlike conventional debt securities, the securities do not pay interest or any "other amounts prior to maturity. You should not invest in the securities if you seek current income during the term of the securities.

"Investing in the securities is not equivalent to investing in the underlying or the stocks that constitute the underlying — You will not have voting rights, rights to receive any dividends or other distributions or any other rights

with respect to the stocks that constitute the underlying. As of November 27, 2018, the average dividend yield of the underlying was approximately 1.99% per year. While it is impossible to know the future dividend yield of the underlying, if this average dividend yield were to remain constant for the term of the securities, you would be forgoing an aggregate yield of approximately 5.97% (assuming no reinvestment of dividends) by investing in the securities instead of investing directly in the stocks that constitute the underlying or in another investment linked to the underlying that provides for a pass-through of dividends. The payment scenarios described in this pricing supplement do not show any effect of lost dividend yield over the term of the securities. You should understand that the underlying is not a total return index, which means that it does not reflect dividends paid on the stocks included in the underlying. Therefore, the return on your securities will not reflect any reinvestment of dividends.

Your payment at maturity depends on the closing level of the underlying on a single day — Because your payment at maturity depends on the closing level of the underlying solely on the final valuation date, you are subject to the ...risk that the closing level of the underlying on that day may be lower, and possibly significantly lower, than on one or more other dates during the term of the securities. If you had invested in another instrument linked to the underlying that you could sell for full value at a time selected by you, or if the payment at maturity were based on an average of closing levels of the underlying, you might have achieved better returns.

The probability that the underlying will fall below the downside threshold on the final valuation date will depend in part on the volatility of the underlying — "Volatility" refers to the frequency and magnitude of changes in the level of the underlying. In general, the greater the volatility of the underlying, the greater the probability that the underlying will experience a large decline over the term of the securities and fall below the downside threshold on the final valuation date. The underlying has historically experienced significant volatility. As a result, there is a significant risk that the underlying will fall below the downside threshold on the final valuation date and that you will incur a significant loss on your investment in the securities. The terms of the securities are set, in part, based on expectations about the volatility of the underlying as of the trade date. If expectations about the volatility of the underlying change over the term of the securities, the value of the securities may be adversely affected, and if the actual volatility of the underlying proves to be greater than initially expected, the securities may prove to be riskier than expected on the trade date.

The securities are subject to the credit risk of Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and Citigroup Inc. — Any payment on the securities will be made by Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and is guaranteed by Citigroup Inc., and therefore is subject to the credit risk of both Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and Citigroup Inc. If we default on our obligations under the securities and Citigroup Inc. defaults on its guarantee obligations, you may not receive any payments that become due under the securities. As a result, the value of the securities prior to maturity will be affected by changes in the market's view of our and Citigroup Inc.'s creditworthiness. Any decline, or anticipated decline, in either of our or Citigroup Inc.'s credit ratings or increase, or anticipated increase, in the credit spreads charged by the market for taking either of our or Citigroup Inc.'s credit risk is likely to adversely affect the value of the securities.

The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange and you may not be able to sell them prior to maturity — The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange. Therefore, there may be little or no secondary ...market for the securities. CGMI currently intends to make a secondary market in relation to the securities and to provide an indicative bid price for the securities on a daily basis. Any indicative bid price for the securities provided by CGMI will be determined in CGMI's sole discretion, taking into account prevailing market conditions and other relevant factors, and will not be a representation by CGMI that the securities can be sold at that price,

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or at all. CGMI may suspend or terminate making a market and providing indicative bid prices without notice, at any time and for any reason. If CGMI suspends or terminates making a market, there may be no secondary market at all for the securities because it is likely that CGMI will be the only broker-dealer that is willing to buy your securities prior to maturity. Accordingly, an investor must be prepared to hold the securities until maturity.

The estimated value of the securities on the trade date, based on CGMI's proprietary pricing models and our internal funding rate, is less than the issue price — The difference is attributable to certain costs associated with selling, structuring and hedging the securities that are included in the issue price. These costs include (i) hedging and other costs incurred by us and our affiliates in connection with the offering of the securities and (ii) the expected ...profit (which may be more or less than actual profit) to CGMI or other of our affiliates in connection with hedging our obligations under the securities. These costs adversely affect the economic terms of the securities because, if they were lower, the economic terms of the securities would be more favorable to you. The economic terms of the securities are also likely to be adversely affected by the use of our internal funding rate, rather than our secondary market rate, to price the securities. See "The estimated value of the securities would be lower if it were calculated based on our secondary market rate" below.

The estimated value of the securities was determined for us by our affiliate using proprietary pricing models — CGMI derived the estimated value disclosed on the cover page of this pricing supplement from its proprietary pricing models. In doing so, it may have made discretionary judgments about the inputs to its models, such as the volatility of the underlying, dividend yields on the stocks that constitute the underlying and interest rates. CGMI's views on these inputs may differ from your or others' views, and as an underwriter in this offering, CGMI's interests may "conflict with yours. Both the models and the inputs to the models may prove to be wrong and therefore not an accurate reflection of the value of the securities. Moreover, the estimated value of the securities set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement may differ from the value that we or our affiliates may determine for the securities for other purposes, including for accounting purposes. You should not invest in the securities because of the estimated value of the securities. Instead, you should be willing to hold the securities to maturity irrespective of the initial estimated value.

The estimated value of the securities would be lower if it were calculated based on our secondary market rate — The estimated value of the securities included in this pricing supplement is calculated based on our internal funding rate, which is the rate at which we are willing to borrow funds through the issuance of the securities. Our internal funding rate is generally lower than our secondary market rate, which is the rate that CGMI will use in determining ...the value of the securities for purposes of any purchases of the securities from you in the secondary market. If the estimated value included in this pricing supplement were based on our secondary market rate, rather than our internal funding rate, it would likely be lower. We determine our internal funding rate based on factors such as the costs associated with the securities, which are generally higher than the costs associated with conventional debt securities, and our liquidity needs and preferences. Our internal funding rate is not an interest rate that we will pay to investors in the securities, which do not bear interest.

Because there is not an active market for traded instruments referencing our outstanding debt obligations, CGMI determines our secondary market rate based on the market price of traded instruments referencing the debt obligations of Citigroup Inc., our parent company and the guarantor of all payments due on the securities, but subject to adjustments that CGMI makes in its sole discretion. As a result, our secondary market rate is not a market-determined measure of our creditworthiness, but rather reflects the market's perception of our parent company's creditworthiness as

adjusted for discretionary factors such as CGMI's preferences with respect to purchasing the securities prior to maturity.

The estimated value of the securities is not an indication of the price, if any, at which CGMI or any other person may be willing to buy the securities from you in the secondary market — Any such secondary market price will fluctuate over the term of the securities based on the market and other factors described in the next risk factor. Moreover, unlike the estimated value included in this pricing supplement, any value of the securities determined for ...purposes of a secondary market transaction will be based on our secondary market rate, which will likely result in a lower value for the securities than if our internal funding rate were used. In addition, any secondary market price for the securities will be reduced by a bid-ask spread, which may vary depending on the aggregate stated principal amount of the securities to be purchased in the secondary market transaction, and the expected cost of unwinding related hedging transactions. As a result, it is likely that any secondary market price for the securities will be less than the issue price.

The value of the securities prior to maturity will fluctuate based on many unpredictable factors — As described under "Valuation of the Securities" below, the payout on the securities could be replicated by a hypothetical package of financial instruments consisting of a fixed-income bond and one or more derivative instruments. As a result, the factors that influence the values of fixed-income bonds and derivative instruments will also influence the terms of the securities at issuance and the value of the securities prior to maturity. Accordingly, the value of your securities prior "to maturity will fluctuate based on the level and volatility of the underlying, dividends yields on the stocks that constitute the underlying, interest rates generally, the time remaining to maturity and our and Citigroup Inc.'s creditworthiness, as reflected in our secondary market rate. You should understand that the value of your securities at any time prior to maturity may be significantly less than the issue price. The stated payout from the issuer, including the potential application of the upside gearing and the downside threshold, only applies if you hold the securities to maturity.

Immediately following issuance, any secondary market bid price provided by CGMI, and the value that will be indicated on any brokerage account statements prepared by CGMI or its affiliates, will reflect a temporary upward adjustment — The amount of this temporary upward adjustment will decline to zero over the temporary adjustment period. See "Valuation of the Securities" in this pricing supplement.

Our offering of the securities is not a recommendation of the underlying — The fact that we are offering the securities does not mean that we believe that investing in an instrument linked to the underlying is likely to achieve favorable returns. In fact, as we are part of a global financial institution, our affiliates may have positions (including short positions) in the stocks that constitute the underlying or in instruments related to the underlying or such stocks, and may publish research or express opinions, that in each case are inconsistent with an investment linked to the underlying. These and other activities of our affiliates may affect the price of the underlying in a way that has a negative impact on your interests as a holder of the securities.

Our affiliates, or UBS or its affiliates, may publish research, express opinions or provide recommendations that are inconsistent with investing in or holding the securities — Any such research, opinions or recommendations "could affect the level of the underlying and the value of the securities. Our affiliates, and UBS and its affiliates, publish research from time to time on financial markets and other matters that may influence the value of the securities, or express opinions or provide recommendations that may be inconsistent with

purchasing or holding the securities. Any research, opinions or recommendations expressed by our affiliates or by UBS or its affiliates may not be consistent with each other and may be modified from time to time without notice. These and other activities of our affiliates or UBS or its affiliates may adversely affect the level of the underlying and may have a negative impact on your interests as a holder of the securities. Investors should make their own independent investigation of the merits of investing in the securities and the underlying to which the securities are linked.

Trading and other transactions by our affiliates, or by UBS or its affiliates, in the equity and equity derivative markets may impair the value of the securities — We have hedged our exposure under the securities through CGMI or other of our affiliates, who have entered into equity and/or equity derivative transactions, such as over-the-counter options or exchange-traded instruments, relating to the underlying or the stocks included in the underlying and may adjust such positions during the term of the securities. It is possible that our affiliates could receive substantial returns from these hedging activities while the value of the securities declines. Our affiliates and UBS and its affiliates may also engage in trading in instruments linked to the underlying on a regular basis as part of their "respective general broker-dealer and other businesses, for proprietary accounts, for other accounts under management or to facilitate transactions for customers, including block transactions. Such trading and hedging activities may affect the level of the underlying and reduce the return on your investment in the securities. Our affiliates or UBS or its affiliates may also issue or underwrite other securities or financial or derivative instruments with returns linked or related to the underlying. By introducing competing products into the marketplace in this manner, our affiliates or UBS or its affiliates could adversely affect the value of the securities. Any of the foregoing activities described in this paragraph may reflect trading strategies that differ from, or are in direct opposition to, investors' trading and investment strategies relating to the securities.

Our affiliates, or UBS or its affiliates, may have economic interests that are adverse to yours as a result of their respective business activities — Our affiliates or UBS or its affiliates may currently or from time to time engage in business with the issuers of the stocks that constitute the underlying, including extending loans to, making equity "investments in or providing advisory services to such issuers. In the course of this business, our affiliates or UBS or its affiliates may acquire non-public information about those issuers, which they will not disclose to you. Moreover, if any of our affiliates or UBS or any of its affiliates is or becomes a creditor of any such issuer, they may exercise any remedies against that issuer that are available to them without regard to your interests.

The calculation agent, which is an affiliate of ours, will make important determinations with respect to the securities — If certain events occur, such as market disruption events or the discontinuance of the underlying, CGMI, ...as calculation agent, will be required to make discretionary judgments that could significantly affect what you receive at maturity. Such judgments could include, among other things, any level required to be determined under the securities. In addition, if certain events occur, CGMI will be required to make certain discretionary judgments that could significantly affect your payment at maturity. Such judgments could include, among other things:

determining whether a market disruption event has occurred;

..if a market disruption event occurs on the final valuation date, determining whether to postpone the final valuation date;

..determining the level of the underlying if the level of the underlying is not otherwise available or a market disruption event has occurred; and

selecting a successor underlying or performing an alternative calculation of the level of the underlying if the underlying is discontinued or materially modified (see "Description of the Securities—Certain Additional Terms for Securities Linked to an Underlying Index—Discontinuance or Material Modification of an Underlying Index" in the accompanying product supplement).

In making these judgments, the calculation agent's interests as an affiliate of ours could be adverse to your interests as a holder of the securities.

Adjustments to the underlying may affect the value of your securities — S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (the "underlying publisher") may add, delete or substitute the stocks that constitute the underlying or make other "methodological changes that could affect the level of the underlying. The underlying publisher may discontinue or suspend calculation or publication of the underlying at any time without regard to your interests as holders of the securities.

The U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the securities are unclear. There is no direct legal authority regarding the proper U.S. federal tax treatment of the securities, and we do not plan to request a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"). Consequently, significant aspects of the tax treatment of the securities are uncertain, and the IRS or a court might not agree with the treatment of the securities as prepaid forward contracts. If the IRS were successful in asserting an alternative treatment of the securities, the tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the securities might be materially and adversely affected. As described below under "United States Federal Tax Considerations," in 2007 the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on various issues regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of "prepaid forward contracts" and similar instruments. Any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, including the character and timing of income or loss and the degree, if any, to which income realized by non-U.S. persons should be subject to withholding tax, possibly with retroactive effect.

In addition, Section 871(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), imposes a withholding tax of up to 30% on "dividend equivalents" paid or deemed paid to non-U.S. investors in respect of certain financial instruments linked to U.S. equities. In light of Treasury regulations, as modified by an IRS notice, that provide a general exemption for financial instruments issued prior to January 1, 2021 that do not have a "delta" of one, the securities should not be subject to withholding under Section 871(m). However, the IRS could challenge this conclusion. If withholding applies to the securities, we will not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts withheld.

You should read carefully the discussion under "United States Federal Tax Considerations" and "Risk Factors Relating to the Securities" in the accompanying product supplement and "United States Federal Tax Considerations" in this pricing supplement. You should also consult your tax adviser regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the securities, as well as tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.

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Hypothetical Examples

Hypothetical terms only. Actual terms may vary. See the cover page for actual offering terms.

The diagram below illustrates your hypothetical payment at maturity for a range of hypothetical percentage changes from the initial underlying level to the final underlying level. The diagram below is based on a hypothetical upside gearing of 1.25 and does not reflect the actual terms of the securities.

Investors in the securities will not receive any dividends that may be paid on the stocks that constitute the underlying. The diagram and examples below do not show any effect of lost dividend yield over the term of the securities. See "Summary Risk Factors—Investing in the securities is not equivalent to investing in the underlying or the stocks that constitute the underlying" above.

The following table and hypothetical examples below illustrate the payment at maturity per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities for a hypothetical range of performances for the underlying from -100.00% to +100.00% and assume an initial underlying level of 2,700.00, a downside threshold of 2,025.00 (75.00% of the initial underlying level) and an upside gearing of 1.25. The actual initial underlying level, downside threshold and upside gearing are listed on the cover page of this pricing supplement. The hypothetical payment at maturity examples set forth below are for illustrative purposes only and are not the actual returns applicable to a purchaser of the securities. The actual payment at maturity will be determined based on the final underlying level on the final valuation date. You should consider carefully whether the securities are suitable to your investment goals. The numbers appearing in the table and in the examples below have been rounded for ease of analysis and do not reflect the actual terms of the securities, which are provided on the cover page of this pricing supplement.

Final Underlying Level	Underlying Return	Payment at Maturity	Total Return on Securities at Maturity ⁽¹⁾
5,400.00	100.00%	\$22.50	125.00%
5,130.00	90.00%	\$21.25	112.50%
4,860.00	80.00%	\$20.00	100.00%
4,590.00	70.00%	\$18.75	87.50%
4,320.00	60.00%	\$17.50	75.00%
4,050.00	50.00%	\$16.25	62.50%
3,780.00	40.00%	\$15.00	50.00%

3,510.00	30.00%	\$13.75	37.50%
3,240.00	20.00%	\$12.50	25.00%
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2,970.00	10.00%	\$11.25	12.50%
2,700.00	0.00%	\$10.00	0.00%
2,430.00	-10.00%	\$10.00	0.00%
2,160.00	-20.00%	\$10.00	0.00%
2,025.00	-25.00%	\$10.00	0.00%
2,024.73	-25.01%	\$7.499	-25.01%
1,890.00	-30.00%	\$7.00	-30.00%
1,620.00	-40.00%	\$6.00	-40.00%
1,350.00	-50.00%	\$5.00	-50.00%
1,080.00	-60.00%	\$4.00	-60.00%
810.00	-70.00%	\$3.00	-70.00%
540.00	-80.00%	\$2.00	-80.00%
270.00	-90.00%	\$1.00	-90.00%
0.00	-100.00%	\$0.00	-100.00%

¹ The "Total Return on Securities at Maturity" is calculated as (a) the payment at maturity per security minus the \$10.00 issue price per security divided by (b) the \$10.00 issue price per security.

Example 1 — The final underlying level of 2,970.00 is greater than the initial underlying level of 2,700.00, resulting in an underlying return of 10.00%. Because the underlying return is 10.00%, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. would pay you a payment at maturity of \$11.25 per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities (a total return at maturity of 12.50%*), calculated as follows:

 $10.00 \times (1 + (underlying return \times upside gearing))$

 $10.00 \times (1 + (10.00\% \times 1.25)) = 11.25$

Example 2 — The final underlying level of 2,430.00 is less than the initial underlying level of 2,700.00 (resulting in an underlying return of -10.00%) but greater than the downside threshold of 2,025.00. Because the underlying return is negative and the final underlying level is greater than the downside threshold, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. would pay you a payment at maturity of \$10.00 per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities (a total return at maturity of 0.00%*).

Example 3 — The final underlying level of 810.00 is less than the initial underlying level of 2,700.00 (resulting in an underlying return of -70.00%) and less than the downside threshold of 2,025.00. Because the underlying

return is negative and the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold, Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. would pay you a payment at maturity of \$3.00 per \$10.00 stated principal amount of securities (a total return at maturity of -70.00%*), calculated as follows:

 $$10.00 \times (1 + underlying return)$

 $$10.00 \times (1 + -70.00\%) = 3.00

If the final underlying level is less than the downside threshold, you will be fully exposed to the negative underlying return, resulting in a loss on the stated principal amount that is proportionate to the percentage decline in the level of the underlying. Under these circumstances, you will lose a significant portion or all of the stated principal amount at maturity. Any payment on the securities, including any repayment of the stated principal amount at maturity, is subject to the creditworthiness of the issuer and the guarantor, and if the issuer and the guarantor were to default on their obligations, you could lose your entire investment.

* The total return at maturity is calculated as (a) the payment at maturity per security minus the \$10.00 issue price per security divided by (b) the \$10.00 issue price per security.

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The S&P 500® Index

The S&P 500® Index consists of common stocks of 500 issuers selected to provide a performance benchmark for the large capitalization segment of the U.S. equity markets. It is calculated and maintained by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. The S&P 500® Index is reported by Bloomberg L.P. under the ticker symbol "SPX."

"Standard & Poor's," "S&P" and "S&P" 500 trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC and have been licensed for use by Citigroup Inc. and its affiliates. For more information, see "Equity Index Descriptions—The S&P U.S. Indices—License Agreement" in the accompanying underlying supplement.

Please refer to the section "Equity Index Descriptions—The S&P U.S. Indices—The S&P 500ex" in the accompanying underlying supplement for important disclosures regarding the S&P 500[®] Index.

The graph below illustrates the performance of the S&P 500® Index from January 2, 2008 to November 27, 2018. The closing level of the S&P 500® Index on November 27, 2018 was 2,682.17. We obtained the closing levels of the S&P 500® Index from Bloomberg, and we have not participated in the preparation of or verified such information. The historical closing levels of the S&P 500® Index should not be taken as an indication of future performance and no assurance can be given as to the final underlying level or any future closing level of the S&P 500® Index. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the S&P 500® Index will result in a positive return on your initial investment and you could lose a significant portion or all of the stated principal amount at maturity.

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United States Federal Tax Considerations

You should read carefully the discussion under "United States Federal Tax Considerations" and "Risk Factors Relating to the Securities" in the accompanying product supplement and "Summary Risk Factors" in this pricing supplement.

In the opinion of our counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, which is based on current market conditions, a security should be treated as a prepaid forward contract for U.S. federal income tax purposes. By purchasing a security, you agree (in the absence of an administrative determination or judicial ruling to the contrary) to this treatment. There is uncertainty regarding this treatment, and the IRS or a court might not agree with it.

Assuming this treatment of the securities is respected and subject to the discussion in "United States Federal Tax Considerations" in the accompanying product supplement, the following U.S. federal income tax consequences should result under current law:

You should not recognize taxable income over the term of the securities prior to maturity, other than pursuant to a sale or exchange.

Upon a sale or exchange of a security (including retirement at maturity), you should recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and your tax basis in the security. Such gain or loss should be long-term capital gain or loss if you held the security for more than one year.

Subject to the discussions below under "Possible Withholding Under Section 871(m) of the Code" and in "United States Federal Tax Considerations" in the accompanying product supplement, if you are a Non-U.S. Holder (as defined in the accompanying product supplement) of the securities, you generally should not be subject to U.S. federal withholding or income tax in respect of any amount paid to you with respect to the securities, provided that (i) income in respect of the securities is not effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States, and (ii) you comply with the applicable certification requirements.

In 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on the U.S. federal income tax treatment of "prepaid forward contracts" and similar instruments. The notice focuses in particular on whether to require holders of these instruments to accrue income over the term of their investment. It also asks for comments on a number of related topics, including the character of income or loss with respect to these instruments; whether short-term instruments should be subject to any such accrual regime; the relevance of factors such as the exchange-traded status of the instruments and the nature of the underlying property to which the instruments are linked; the degree, if any, to which income (including any mandated accruals) realized by non-U.S. investors should be subject to withholding tax; and whether these instruments are or should be subject to the "constructive ownership" regime, which very generally can operate to recharacterize certain long-term capital gain as ordinary income and impose an interest charge. While the notice requests comments on appropriate transition rules and effective dates, any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely

affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, including the character and timing of income or loss and the degree, if any, to which income realized by non-U.S. persons should be subject to withholding tax, possibly with retroactive effect.

Possible Withholding Under Section 871(m) of the Code. As discussed under "United States Federal Tax Considerations—Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders" in the accompanying product supplement, Section 871(m) of the Code and Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder ("Section 871(m)") generally impose a 30% withholding tax on dividend equivalents paid or deemed paid to Non-U.S. Holders with respect to certain financial instruments linked to U.S. equities ("U.S. Underlying Equities") or indices that include U.S. Underlying Equities. Section 871(m) generally applies to instruments that substantially replicate the economic performance of one or more U.S. Underlying Equities, as determined based on tests set forth in the applicable Treasury regulations (a "Specified Security"). However, the regulations, as modified by an IRS notice, exempt financial instruments issued prior to January 1, 2021 that do not have a "delta" of one. Based on the terms of the securities and representations provided by us, our counsel is of the opinion that the securities should not be treated as transactions that have a "delta" of one within the meaning of the regulations with respect to any U.S. Underlying Equity and, therefore, should not be Specified Securities subject to withholding tax under Section 871(m).

A determination that the securities are not subject to Section 871(m) is not binding on the IRS, and the IRS may disagree with this treatment. Moreover, Section 871(m) is complex and its application may depend on your particular circumstances. For example, if you enter into other transactions relating to a U.S. Underlying Equity, you could be subject to withholding tax or income tax liability under Section 871(m) even if the securities are not Specified Securities subject to Section 871(m) as a general matter. You should consult your tax adviser regarding the potential application of Section 871(m) to the securities.

If withholding tax applies to the securities, we will not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts withheld.

You should read the section entitled "United States Federal Tax Considerations" in the accompanying product supplement. The preceding discussion, when read in combination with that section, constitutes the full opinion of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP regarding the material U.S. federal tax consequences of owning and disposing of the securities.

You should also consult your tax adviser regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of an investment in the securities and any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.

Supplemental Plan of Distribution

CGMI, an affiliate of Citigroup Global Markets Holdings Inc. and the lead agent for the sale of the securities, will not receive an underwriting discount for any security sold in this offering. UBS, as agent for sales of the securities, has agreed to purchase from CGMI, and CGMI has agreed to sell to UBS, all of the securities sold in this offering for \$10.00 per security. UBS proposes to offer the securities to the public at a price of \$10.00 per security. UBS will not receive any underwriting discount for any security it sells in this offering. Investors that purchase and hold the securities in fee-based advisory accounts will pay advisory fees to UBS based on the amount of assets held in those accounts. If all of the securities are not sold at the initial offering price, CGMI may change the public offering price and other selling terms.

CGMI is an affiliate of ours. Accordingly, this offering will conform with the requirements addressing conflicts of interest when distributing the securities of an affiliate set forth in Rule 5121 of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Client accounts over which Citigroup Inc. or its subsidiaries have investment discretion will not be permitted to purchase the securities, either directly or indirectly, without the prior written consent of the client.

Secondary market sales of securities typically settle two business days after the date on which the parties agree to the sale. Because the settlement date for the securities is more than two business days after the trade date, investors who wish to sell the securities at any time prior to the second business day preceding the settlement date will be required to specify an alternative settlement date fores the borrowed security, the Fund will incur a loss. Conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss increased, by the transaction costs described above. Although the Fund's gain is limited to the price at which it sold the security short, its potential loss is theoretically unlimited. The Fund also may make short sales "against the box." These transactions will involve either short sales of securities retained in the Fund's portfolio or securities which it has the right to acquire without the payment of further consideration. Investment in Other Investment Companies The Fund may invest in other investment companies whose investment objectives and policies are consistent with those of the Fund. In accordance with the 1940 Act, the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in securities of other investment companies. In addition, under the 1940 Act the Fund may not own more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of any investment company and not more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in securities of any investment company. The Fund has received an exemptive order from the Commission permitting it to invest in affiliated registered money market funds and in an affiliated private investment company without regard to such limitations, provided however, that in all cases the Fund's aggregate investment of cash in shares of such investment companies shall not exceed 25% of the Fund's total assets at any time. If the Fund acquires shares in investment companies, stockholders would bear both their proportionate share of expenses in the Fund (including management and advisory fees) and, indirectly, the expenses of such investment companies (including management and advisory fees). Borrowings The Fund is authorized to borrow money in amounts of up to 5% of the value of its total assets at the time of such borrowings; provided, however, that the Fund is authorized to borrow moneys in amounts of up to 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets at the time of such borrowings to finance the repurchase of its own common stock pursuant to tender offers or otherwise, to redeem or repurchase shares of preferred stock, or for temporary, extraordinary or emergency purposes, including the payment of dividends and the settlement of securities transactions which otherwise might require untimely dispositions of portfolio securities. Borrowings by the Fund (commonly known, as with the issuance of preferred stock, as "leveraging") create an opportunity for greater total return since, for example, the Fund will not be required to sell portfolio securities to repurchase or redeem shares but, at the same time, increase exposure to capital risk. See "Risks and Special Considerations of Leverage." In addition, borrowed funds are subject to interest costs that may offset or exceed the return earned on the borrowed funds. 30 RISKS AND SPECIAL

CONSIDERATIONS OF LEVERAGE Effects of Leverage The Fund currently intends to issue preferred stock within approximately three months after the completion of this offering. Under current market conditions it is anticipated that the preferred stock will represent approximately 35% of the Fund's capital, including the capital raised by issuing the preferred stock, or approximately 54% of the Fund's common stock equity. There can be no assurance, however, that preferred stock will actually be issued or if issued what percentage of the Fund's capital it will represent. Issuing the preferred stock will result in the leveraging of the common stock. Although the Fund's Board of Directors has not yet determined the terms of the preferred stock offering, the Fund anticipates that the preferred stock will pay dividends that will be adjusted over either relatively short term periods (generally 7 days) or medium term periods (up to five years). The dividend rate will be based upon prevailing interest rates for debt obligations of comparable maturity. The proceeds of the preferred stock offering will be invested in accordance with the Fund's investment objective. The expenses of the preferred stock, which will be borne by the Fund, will reduce the net asset value of the common stock. Additionally, under certain circumstances, when the Fund is required to allocate taxable income to holders of preferred stock, the Fund anticipates that the terms of the preferred stock will require the Fund to make an additional distribution to such holders in an amount approximately equal to the tax liability resulting from such allocation (an "Additional Distribution"). Because under normal market conditions, obligations with longer maturities produce higher yields than short term and medium term obligations, the yield spread inherent in the difference between the short term and medium term rates (and any Additional Distribution) paid by the Fund as dividends on the preferred stock and the generally longer term rates received by the Fund on its portfolio securities may provide holders of common stock with a potentially higher yield. The Fund also may borrow money as discussed under "Other Investment Policies -- Borrowings." The use of leverage, however, involves certain risks to the holders of common stock. For example, issuance of the preferred stock may result in higher volatility of the Fund's yield, net asset value and in the market price of the Fund's common stock. In addition, changes in short term, medium term and long term rates and their relationship to each other, could negatively impact the Fund's yield, net asset value and market price of the Fund's common stock. Leverage will allow holders of common stock to realize a higher current yield or return than if the Fund were not leveraged as long as the Fund, while accounting for its costs and operating expenses, is able to earn higher income or return on its investment portfolio than the then current dividend rate paid on (and any Additional Distribution) the preferred stock. Similarly, since a pro rata portion of the Fund's net realized capital gains are generally payable to holders of common stock, the effect of leverage may be to increase the amount of such gains distributed to holders of common stock. However, short term, medium term and long term interest rates change from time to time, as do their relationships to each other (i.e., the slope of the yield curve), depending upon such factors as supply and demand forces, monetary and tax policies and investor expectations. Changes in any or all of such factors could cause the relationship between short term, medium term and long term rates to change (i.e., to flatten or to invert the slope of the yield curve) so that short term and medium term rates may substantially increase relative to the long term obligations in which the Fund may be invested. If short term rates were to rise relative to long term rates, the incremental yield pickup on the common stock as a result of leverage will be reduced or eliminated completely. To the extent that the current dividend rate (and any Additional Distribution) paid on the preferred stock approaches the yield or return on the Fund's investment portfolio, the benefit of leverage to holders of common stock will be decreased. If the current dividend rate (and any Additional Distribution) paid on the preferred stock were to exceed the yield or return on the Fund's portfolio, holders of common stock would receive a lower yield or return than if the Fund were not leveraged. If long term rates rise, the value of the Fund's investments (including assets obtained from leverage) may decline. Since both the cost of 31 issuing the preferred stock and any decline in the value of the Fund's investments (including investments purchased with the proceeds from any preferred stock offering) will be borne entirely by holders of common stock, the effect of leverage in a declining market would result in a greater decrease in the Fund's net asset value and possibly the market price of the common stock than if the Fund were not leveraged. If the Fund is liquidated, holders of preferred stock will be entitled to receive liquidating distributions before any distribution is made to holders of common stock. In an extreme case, a decline in net asset value could affect the Fund's ability to pay dividends on the common stock. Failure to make such dividend payments could adversely affect the Fund's qualification as a regulated investment company under the Federal tax laws. See "Taxes." However, the Fund intends to take all measures necessary to make common stock dividend payments. If the Fund's current investment income is ever insufficient to meet dividend payments on either the common stock or the preferred stock, the Fund may have to liquidate certain of its investments. In addition, the Fund will have the authority to redeem the

preferred stock for any reason and may redeem all or part of the preferred stock under the following circumstances: o if the asset coverage for the preferred stock declines below 200%, or o in order to maintain the asset coverage guidelines established by the nationally recognized statistical rating organization(s) ("NRSRO(s)") that have rated the preferred stock. Redemption of the preferred stock or insufficient investment income to make dividend payments may reduce the net asset value of the common stock and require the Fund to liquidate a portion of its investments at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. As discussed under "Investment Advisory and Management Arrangements," during periods when the Fund has preferred stock outstanding, the fees paid the Investment Adviser for investment advisory and management services will be higher than if the Fund did not issue preferred stock because the fees paid will be calculated on the basis of the Fund's average daily net assets, (including any proceeds from the issuance of preferred stock), plus the proceeds of any outstanding borrowings used for leverage. Assuming the use of leverage by issuing preferred stock (paying dividends at a rate that generally will be adjusted every 7 days) in an amount representing approximately 35% of the Fund's capital at an annual dividend rate of 0.75% payable on such preferred stock based on market rates as of a recent date, the annual return that the Fund's portfolio must experience (net of expenses) in order to cover such dividend payments would be 0.26%. The following table is designed to illustrate the effect on the return to a holder of common stock of the leverage obtained by the issuance of preferred stock representing approximately 35% of the Fund's capital, assuming hypothetical annual returns on the Fund's portfolio of minus 10% to plus 10%. As the table shows, leverage generally increases the return to stockholders when portfolio return is positive and decreases the return when portfolio return is negative. The figures appearing in the table are hypothetical and actual returns may be greater or less than those appearing in the table. Assumed Portfolio Return (net of expenses)......(10)% (5)% 0% 5% 10% Corresponding Common Stock Return......(16)% (8)% 0% 7% 15% Leveraging the common stock cannot be fully achieved until preferred stock is issued and the proceeds of such offering have been invested in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies, 32 Portfolio Management and Other Considerations If short term or medium term rates increase or other changes in market conditions occur to the point where the Fund's leverage could adversely affect holders of common stock as noted above (or in anticipation of such changes), the Fund may attempt to shorten the average maturity or duration of its investment portfolio in order to offset the negative impact of leverage. The Fund also may attempt to reduce the degree to which it is leveraged by redeeming preferred stock pursuant to the Fund's Articles Supplementary, which establish the rights and preferences of the preferred stock, or otherwise by purchasing shares of preferred stock. Purchases and redemptions of preferred stock, whether on the open market or in negotiated transactions, are subject to limitations under the 1940 Act. In determining whether or not it is in the best interest of the Fund and its stockholders to redeem or repurchase outstanding preferred stock, the Board of Directors will take into account a variety of factors, including the following: o market conditions; o the ratio of preferred stock to common stock; and o the expenses associated with such redemption or repurchase. If market conditions subsequently change, the Fund may sell previously unissued shares of preferred stock or shares of preferred stock that the Fund had issued but later repurchased or redeemed. The Fund will incur additional expenses in connection with the subsequent registration and sale of preferred stock. The Fund intends to apply for ratings of the preferred stock from one or more NRSRO(s). In order to obtain these ratings, the Fund may be required to maintain portfolio holdings that meet the specified guidelines of such organizations. These guidelines may impose asset coverage requirements that are more stringent than those imposed by the 1940 Act. The Fund does not anticipate that these guidelines will impede the Investment Adviser from managing the Fund's portfolio in accordance with the Fund's investment objective and policies. Ratings on preferred stock issued by the Fund should not be confused with ratings on the obligations held by the Fund. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund is not permitted to issue shares of preferred stock unless immediately after such issuance the net asset value of the Fund's portfolio is at least 200% of the liquidation value of the outstanding preferred stock (expected to equal the original purchase price of the outstanding shares of preferred stock plus any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon and any accumulated and unpaid Additional Distribution). In addition, the Fund is not permitted to declare any cash dividend or other distribution on its common stock unless, at the time of such declaration, the net asset value of the Fund's portfolio (determined after deducting the amount of such dividend or distribution) is at least 200% of the liquidation value of the outstanding preferred stock. Under the Fund's proposed capital structure, assuming the sale of shares of preferred stock representing approximately 35% of the Fund's capital, the net asset value of the Fund's portfolio is expected to be approximately 286% of the liquidation value of the Fund's preferred stock. To the extent possible, the Fund intends to purchase or redeem shares of preferred stock from time to

time to maintain coverage of preferred stock of at least 200%. The Fund may in the future employ new or additional investment strategies and hedging instruments if those strategies and instruments are consistent with the Fund's investment objective and are permissible under applicable regulations governing the Fund. INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS The following are fundamental investment restrictions of the Fund and, prior to issuance of any preferred stock, may not be changed without the approval of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding shares of common stock (which for this purpose and under the 1940 Act means the lesser of (i) 67% of the shares of common stock represented at a meeting at which more than 50% of the outstanding shares of common stock are represented or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares). Subsequent to the issuance of a class of preferred 33 stock, the following investment restrictions may not be changed without the approval of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock and of preferred stock, voting together as a class, and the approval of a majority of the outstanding shares of preferred stock, voting separately as a class. The Fund may not: 1. Make investments for the purpose of exercising control or management. 2. Purchase or sell real estate, commodities or commodity contracts; except that to the extent permitted by applicable law, the Fund may invest in securities directly or indirectly secured by real estate or interests therein or issued by entities that invest in real estate or interests therein, and the Fund may purchase and sell financial futures contracts and options thereon. 3. Issue senior securities or borrow money except as permitted by Section 18 of the 1940 Act. 4. Underwrite securities of other issuers except insofar as the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in selling portfolio securities. 5. Make loans to other persons, except (i) the Fund shall not be deemed to be making a loan to the extent that the Fund purchases Municipal Bonds or other debt instruments or enters into repurchase agreements or any similar instruments and (ii) the Fund may lend its portfolio securities in an amount not in excess of 33 1/3% of its total assets, taken at market value, provided that such loans shall be made in accordance with the guidelines set forth in this prospectus. 6. Invest more than 25% of its total assets (taken at market value at the time of each investment) in the securities of issuers in a single industry; provided that, for purposes of this restriction, tax exempt securities of issuers that are states, municipalities or their political subdivisions are not considered to be the securities of issuers in any single industry. Additional investment restrictions adopted by the Fund, which may be changed by the Board of Directors without stockholder approval, provide that the Fund may not: a. Purchase securities of other investment companies, except to the extent that such purchases are permitted by applicable law. Applicable law currently prohibits the Fund from purchasing the securities of other investment companies except if immediately thereafter not more than (i) 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of such company is owned by the Fund, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets, taken at market value, would be invested in any one such company, (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets, taken at market value, would be invested in such securities and provided that the Fund, together with other investment companies having the same investment adviser and companies controlled by such companies, owns not more than 10% of the total outstanding stock of any one closed-end investment company. b. Mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or in any manner transfer, as security for indebtedness, any securities owned or held by the Fund except as may be necessary in connection with borrowings mentioned in investment restriction (3) above or except as may be necessary in connection with transactions described under "Other Investment Policies." c. Purchase any securities on margin, except that the Fund may obtain such short term credit as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of portfolio securities (the deposit or payment by the Fund of initial or variation margin in connection with financial futures contracts and options thereon is not considered the purchase of a security on margin). d. Change its policy of investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of the Fund's net assets (including assets acquired from the sale of preferred stock), plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in Municipal Bonds with a duration, as calculated by the Fund's Investment Adviser, of three to ten years, unless the Fund provides stockholders with at least 60 days prior written notice of such change. 34 If a percentage restriction on investment policies or the investment or use of assets set forth above is adhered to at the time a transaction is effected, later changes in percentage resulting from changing values will not be considered a violation. The Fund is classified as non-diversified within the meaning of the 1940 Act, which means that the Fund is not limited by the 1940 Act in the proportion of its assets that it may invest in securities of a single issuer. As a non-diversified fund, the Fund's investments are limited, however, in order to allow the Fund to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). See "Taxes." To qualify, the Fund complies with certain requirements, including limiting its investments so that at the close of each quarter of the taxable year (i) not more than 25% of the market value of the Fund's total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer and (ii) with respect to 50% of the market value of its total assets, not more

than 5% of the market value of its total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer and the Fund will not own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer. For purposes of this restriction, the Fund will regard each state and each political subdivision, agency or instrumentality of such state and each multi-state agency of which such state is a member and each public authority which issues securities on behalf of a private entity as a separate issuer, except that if the security is backed only by the assets and revenues of a non-government entity then the entity with the ultimate responsibility for the payment of interest and principal may be regarded as the sole issuer. These tax-related limitations may be changed by the Board of Directors of the Fund to the extent necessary to comply with changes in the Federal tax requirements. A fund that elects to be classified as "diversified" under the 1940 Act must satisfy the foregoing 5% and 10% requirements with respect to 75% of its total assets. The Investment Adviser of the Fund and Merrill Lynch are owned and controlled by Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("ML & Co."). Because of the affiliation of Merrill Lynch with the Investment Adviser, the Fund is prohibited from engaging in certain transactions involving Merrill Lynch except pursuant to an exemptive order or otherwise in compliance with the provisions of the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder. Included among such restricted transactions will be purchases from or sales to Merrill Lynch of securities in transactions in which it acts as principal. See "Portfolio Transactions." DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS The Directors of the Fund consist of five individuals, four of whom are not "interested persons" of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act (the "non-interested Directors"). The Directors are responsible for the overall supervision of the operations of the Fund and perform the various duties imposed on the directors of investment companies by the 1940 Act. Each non-interested Director is a member of the Fund's Audit and Nominating Committee (the "Committee"). The principal responsibilities of the Committee are the appointment, compensation and oversight of the Fund's independent auditors, including resolution of disagreements regarding financial reporting between Fund management and such auditors. The Board of the Fund has adopted a written charter for the Committee. The Committee also reviews and nominates candidates to serve as non-interested Directors. The Committee has retained independent legal counsel to assist them in connection with these duties. Since the Fund was incorporated, the Committee has held one meeting. Biographical Information Certain biographical and other information relating to the non-interested Directors of the Fund is set forth below, including their ages, their principal occupations for at least the last five years, the length of time served, the total number of portfolios overseen in the complex of funds advised by the Investment Adviser and its affiliate, Merrill Lynch Investment Managers, L.P. ("MLIM") ("FAM/MLIM-advised funds") and other public directorships. 35 Number of FAM/MLIM-Advised Name, Address* Position(s) Held Term of Office** and Principal Occupation(s) Funds and Age with the Fund Length of Time Served During Past Five Years Portfolios Overseen Public Directorships ------

----- Donald W. Director Director since 2003 General Partner of The 21 registered ITC DeltaCom, Inc. Burton (59) Burton Partnership, investment companies (telecommunications); Limited Partnership (an consisting of ITC Holding Company, Investment Partnership) 35 portfolios Inc. since 1979; Managing (telecommunications); General Partner of The Knology, Inc. South Atlantic Venture (telecommunications); Funds since 1983; MainBancorp, N.A. Member of the (bank holding Investment Advisory company); PriCare, Committee of the Inc. (health care); Florida State Board of Symbion, Inc. (health Administration since care) 2001. M. Colver Crum Director Director since 2003 James R. Williston 22 registered Cambridge Bancorp (71) Professor of Investment investment companies (banking company) Management Emeritus, consisting of Harvard Business School 36 portfolios since 1996; James R. Williston Professor of Investment Management, Harvard Business School, from 1971 to 1996. Laurie Simon Director Director since 2003 Professor of Finance 21 registered None Hodrick (40) and Economics, Graduate investment companies School of Business, consisting of Columbia University 35 portfolios since 1998; Associate Professor of Finance and Economics, Graduate School of Business, Columbia University from 1996 to 1998. Fred G. Weiss Director Director since 2003 Managing Director of 21 registered Watson Pharmaceutical (61) FGW Associates since investment companies Inc. (pharmaceutical 1977; Vice President, consisting of company) Planning Investment and 35 portfolios Development of Warner Lambert Co. from 1979 to 1997; Director of BTG International PLC (a global technology commercialisation company) since 2001; Director of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. ----- * The address of each non-interested Director is P.O. Box 9095, Princeton, New Jersey 08543-9095. ** Each Director serves until his or her successor is elected and qualified, until December 31 of the year in which he or she turns 72, or until his or her death, resignation, or removal as provided in the Fund's By-laws, Charter or by statute. 36 Certain biographical and other information relating to the Director who is an "interested person" of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act (the

"interested Director") and the other officers of the Fund is set forth below, including their ages, their principal occupations for at least the last five years, the length of time served, the total number of portfolios overseen in FAM/MLIM-advised funds and public directorships held. Number of FAM/MLIM-Advised Name, Address* Position(s) Held Term of Office+ and Principal Occupation(s) Funds and Age with the Fund Length of Time Served During Past Five Years Portfolios Overseen Public Directorships ----------- Terry K. President and President and President and Chairman 114 registered None Glenn++ (62) Director Director+++ since of the MLIM/FAM-advised investment companies 2003 funds since 1999; consisting of Chairman (Americas 159 portfolios Region) of MLIM from 2000 to 2002; Executive Vice President of MLIM and the Investment Adviser (which terms as used herein, include their corporate predecessors) from 1983 to 2002; President of FAM Distributors, Inc. ("FAMD" or the "Distributor") from 1986 to 2002 and Director thereof from 1991 to 2002; Executive Vice President and Director of Princeton Services, Inc. ("Princeton Services") from 1993 to 2002; President of Princeton Administrators, L.P. from 1988 to 2002; Director of Financial Data Services, Inc. from 1985 to 2002. Donald C. Vice President Vice President and First Vice President of 113 registered None Burke (43) and Treasurer Treasurer since 2003 MLIM since 1997 and investment companies Treasurer thereof since consisting of 1999; Senior Vice 158 portfolios President and Treasurer of Princeton Services since 1999; Vice President of FAMD since 1999; Vice President of MLIM and the Investment Adviser from 1990 to 1997; Director of Taxation of MLIM since 1990. Kenneth A. Senior Vice Senior Vice Managing Director of 37 registered None Jacob (52) President President since MLIM since 2000; investment companies 2003 First Vice President of consisting of MLIM from 1997 to 2000; 49 portfolios Vice President of MLIM from 1984 to 1997; Vice President of the Investment Adviser since 1984, John M. Senior Vice Senior Vice Managing Director of 37 registered None Loffredo (39) President President since MLIM since 2000; First investment companies 2003 Vice President of consisting of MLIM from 1997 to 2000; 49 portfolios Vice President of MLIM from 1991 to 1997; Portfolio Manager of the Investment Adviser and MLIM since 1997. Robert A. Vice President Vice President Vice President of MLIM 5 registered None DiMella and Portfolio and Portfolio since 1997; Assistant investment companies (36) Manage Manager since 2003 Vice President of MLIM consisting of from 1995 to 1997; 5 portfolios Assistant Portfolio Manager of MLIM from 1993 to 1995. (footnotes on next page) 37 Number of FAM/MLIM-Advised Name, Address* Position(s) Held Term of Office+ and Principal Occupation(s) Funds and Age with the Fund Length of Time Served During Past Five Years Portfolios Overseen Public Directorships ----------- Brian D. Secretary Secretary since 2003 Vice President of MLIM 37 registered None Stewart (34) since 2002; Attorney investment companies associated with Reed consisting of Smith LLP from 2001 to 51 portfolios 2002; Attorney associated with Saul Ewing LLP from 1999 to 2001. ----* The address of each officer is P.O. Box 9011, Princeton, New Jersey 08543-9011, + Elected by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors of the Fund. ++ Mr. Glenn is an "interested person," as defined in the 1940 Act, of the Fund based on his former positions with the Investment Adviser, MLIM, FAMD, Princeton Services and Princeton Administrators, L.P. +++ As Director, Mr. Glenn serves until his successor is elected and qualified, until December 31 of the year in which he turns 72, or until his death, resignation, or removal as provided in the Fund's By-laws, Charter or by statute. In the event that the Fund issues preferred stock, holders of shares of preferred stock, voting as a separate class, will be entitled to elect two of the Fund's Directors, and the remaining Directors will be elected by all holders of capital stock, voting as a single class. See "Description of Capital Stock." Share Ownership Information relating to each Director's share ownership in the Fund and in all registered funds in the Merrill Lynch family of funds that are overseen by the respective Director ("Supervised Merrill Lynch Funds") as of December 31, 2002 is set forth in the chart below. Aggregate Dollar Range Aggregate Dollar Range of Securities in Supervised Name of Equity in the Fund Merrill Lynch Funds* ----- Interested Directors: Terry K. \$100,000 Fred G. Weiss...... None Over \$100,000 -----* For the number of FAM/MLIM-advised funds from which each Director receives compensation, see the table above under "Directors and Officers --Biographical Information." As of the date of this prospectus, the Investment Adviser owned all of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Fund; none of the Directors and officers of the Fund owned outstanding shares of the Fund. As of the date of this prospectus, none of the non-interested Directors of the Fund nor any of their immediate family members owned beneficially or of record any securities in ML & Co. 38 Compensation of Directors Pursuant

to its investment advisory agreement with the Fund (the "Investment Advisory Agreement"), the Investment Adviser pays all compensation of officers and employees of the Fund as well as the fees of all Directors of the Fund who are affiliated persons of ML & Co. or its subsidiaries as well as such Directors' actual out-of-pocket expenses relating to attendance at meetings. The Fund pays each non-interested Director a combined fee for services on the Board and the Committee of \$3,000 per year, \$250 per in person Board meeting attended and \$250 per in person Committee meeting attended. The Fund pays the Chairman of the Committee an additional fee of \$500 per year. The Fund reimburses each non-interested Director for his or her out-of-pocket expenses relating to attendance at Board and Committee meetings. The following table sets forth the estimated compensation to be paid by the Fund to the non-interested Directors projected through the end of the Fund's first full fiscal year and the aggregate compensation paid to them from all registered FAM/MLIM-advised funds for the calendar year ended December 31, 2002. Pension or Aggregate Retirement Compensation Benefits Estimated From Fund Accrued Annual and other Position Compensation as Part of Benefits Upon FAM/MLIM- Name of Director with Fund from Fund Fund Expense Retirement Advised Funds ------ Donald W. Burton...... Director \$5,000 None None \$189,042 M. Colyer Crum*...... Director \$5,500 None None \$226,583 Laurie Simon Hodrick...... Director \$5,000 None None \$208,917 Fred G. Weiss...... Director \$5,000 None None \$208,917 ----- * Chairman of the Committee. INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS The Investment Adviser, which is owned and controlled by ML & Co., a financial services holding company and the parent of Merrill Lynch, provides the Fund with investment advisory and administrative services. The Investment Adviser acts as the investment adviser to more than 100 registered investment companies and offers investment advisory services to individuals and institutional accounts. As of May 2003, the Investment Adviser and its affiliates, including MLIM, had a total of approximately \$462 billion in investment company and other portfolio assets under management, including approximately \$259 billion in fixed income assets. This amount includes assets managed by certain affiliates of the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser is a limited partnership, the partners of which are ML & Co. and Princeton Services. The principal business address of the Investment Adviser is 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536. The Investment Advisory Agreement provides that, subject to the direction of the Fund's Board of Directors, the Investment Adviser is responsible for the actual management of the Fund's portfolio. The responsibility for making decisions to buy, sell or hold a particular security rests with the Investment Adviser, subject to review by the Board of Directors. The portfolio manager primarily responsible for the Fund's day-to-day management is Robert A. DiMella, CFA. Robert DiMella has been a Vice President of the Investment Adviser since 1997 and has 13 years of experience investing in Municipal Bonds. The Fund's portfolio manager will consider analyses from various 39 sources, make the necessary investment decisions, and place orders for transactions accordingly. The Fund is also assisted by 13 research analysts with an average of 12 years of experience. The Investment Adviser will also be responsible for the performance of certain management services for the Fund. For its services, the Fund pays the Investment Adviser a monthly fee at the annual rate of 0.55% of the Fund's average daily net assets plus the proceeds of any outstanding borrowings used for leverage ("average daily net assets" means the average daily value of the total assets of the Fund, including the amount obtained from leverage and any proceeds from the issuance of preferred stock, minus the sum of (i) accrued liabilities of the Fund, (ii) any accrued and unpaid interest on outstanding borrowings and (iii) accumulated dividends on shares of preferred stock). For purposes of this calculation, average daily net assets is determined at the end of each month on the basis of the average net assets of the Fund for each day during the month. It is understood that the liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred stock (other than accumulated dividends) is not considered a liability in determining the Fund's average daily net assets. The Investment Adviser has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its fee during the first seven years of the Fund's operations ending July 31, 2010, as follows: Fee Waiver (as a percentage of average daily net assets) 31, 2010. The Investment Advisory Agreement obligates the Investment Adviser to provide investment advisory services and to pay all compensation of and furnish office space for officers and employees of the Fund connected with investment and economic research, trading and investment management of the Fund, as well as the compensation of all Directors of the Fund who are affiliated persons of the Investment Adviser or any of its affiliates. The Fund pays all other expenses incurred in the operation of the Fund, including, among other things, expenses for legal and auditing services, taxes, costs of preparing, printing and mailing proxies, listing fees, stock certificates and

stockholder reports, charges of the custodian and the transfer agent, dividend disbursing agent and registrar, Commission fees, fees and expenses of non-interested Directors, accounting and pricing costs, insurance, interest, brokerage costs, litigation and other extraordinary or non-recurring expenses, mailing and other expenses properly payable by the Fund. Certain accounting services are provided to the Fund by State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street") pursuant to an agreement between State Street and the Fund. The Fund will pay the costs of these services. In addition, the Fund will reimburse the Investment Adviser for certain additional accounting services. Unless earlier terminated as described below, the Investment Advisory Agreement will remain in effect for a period of two years from the date of execution and will remain in effect from year to year thereafter if approved annually (a) by the Board of Directors of the Fund or by a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund and (b) by a majority of the Directors who are not parties to such contract or interested persons (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any such party. Such contract is not assignable and may be terminated without penalty on 60 days' written notice at the option of either party thereto or by the vote of the stockholders of the Fund. 40 In connection with the Board of Director's consideration of the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Board reviewed information derived from a number of sources and covering a range of issues relating to, among other things, alternatives to the Investment Advisory Agreement. The Board of Directors considered the services to be provided to the Fund by the Investment Adviser under the Investment Advisory Agreement, as well as other services to be provided by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates under other agreements, and the personnel who will provide these services. In addition to the investment advisory services to be provided to the Fund, the Investment Adviser and its affiliates will provide administrative services, stockholder services, oversight of fund accounting, assistance in meeting legal and regulatory requirements, and other services necessary for the operation of the Fund. The Fund's Board of Directors also considered the direct and indirect benefits to the Investment Adviser from its relationship with the Fund. The benefits considered by the Board of Directors included not only the Investment Adviser's compensation for investment advisory services, but also compensation paid to the Investment Adviser or its affiliates for other non-advisory services provided to the Fund. The Board of Directors concluded that the advisory fee was reasonable in relation to the services to be provided by the Investment Adviser to the Fund as well as the anticipated costs and benefits to be gained by the Investment Adviser in providing such services. In reaching its conclusion, the Board of Directors focused on the experience, resources and strengths of the Investment Adviser and its affiliates in managing leveraged, closed-end investment companies that invest in Municipal Bonds. The Board of Directors, based on their experience as directors of other investment companies managed by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates, also focused on the quality of the compliance and administrative staff at the Investment Adviser. In connection with its consideration of the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Board of Directors placed significant emphasis on the Fund's advisory fee rate and anticipated expense ratios as compared to those of comparable leveraged, closed-end funds managed by other investment advisers ("comparable funds") investing in Municipal Bonds and similar instruments as provided by Lipper Inc. In particular, the Board of Directors reviewed the advisory fee rate of eleven comparable leveraged, closed-end funds with substantially similar investment objectives and policies. The Board of Directors noted that the Fund has the lowest contractual advisory fee rate at the estimated asset level for the Fund among the comparable funds. Based in part on this fee comparison, and taking into account the quality of the various services to be provided to the Fund by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates discussed above, the Investment Adviser's experience in managing Municipal Bonds, and the Board of Directors' experience with the nature and quality of portfolio management, administrative and compliance services provided by the Investment Adviser to other investment companies, the Fund's Board of Directors concluded that the advisory fee rate was reasonable. The Board of Directors considered whether there should be changes in the advisory fee rate or structure in order to enable the Fund to participate in any economies of scale that the Investment Adviser may experience as a result of growth in the Fund's assets. The Fund's Board of Directors also reviewed materials supplied by counsel that were prepared for use by the Board of Directors in fulfilling its duties under the 1940 Act. Based on the information reviewed and the discussions, the Board of Directors, including a majority of the non-interested Directors, concluded that it was satisfied with the nature and quality of the services to be provided by the Investment Adviser to the Fund and that the advisory fee rate was reasonable in relation to such services. The non-interested Directors were represented by independent counsel who assisted them in their deliberations. Code of Ethics The Fund's Board of Directors approved a Code of Ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act that covers the Fund and the Investment Adviser. The Code of Ethics establishes procedures for personal investing and restricts certain transactions. Employees subject to the Code of Ethics may

invest in securities for their personal investment accounts, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. 41 Proxy Voting Procedures The Fund's Board of Directors has delegated to the Investment Adviser authority to vote all proxies relating to the Fund's portfolio securities. The Investment Adviser has adopted policies and procedures ("Proxy Voting Procedures") with respect to the voting of proxies related to the portfolio securities held in the account of one or more of its clients, including the Fund. Pursuant to these Proxy Voting Procedures, the Investment Adviser's primary objective when voting proxies is to make proxy voting decisions solely in the best interests of the Fund and its stockholders, and to act in a manner that the Investment Adviser believes is most likely to enhance the economic value of the securities held by the Fund. The Proxy Voting Procedures are designed to ensure that the Investment Adviser considers the interests of its clients, including the Fund, and not the interests of the Investment Adviser, when voting proxies and that real (or perceived) material conflicts that may arise between the Investment Adviser's interest and those of the Investment Adviser's clients are properly addressed and resolved. In order to implement the Proxy Voting Procedures, the Investment Adviser has formed a Proxy Voting Committee (the "Committee"). The Committee is comprised of the Investment Adviser's Chief Investment Officer (the "CIO"), one or more other senior investment professionals appointed by the CIO, portfolio managers and investment analysts appointed by the CIO and any other personnel the CIO deems appropriate. The Committee will also include two non-voting representatives from the Investment Adviser's Legal department appointed by the Investment Adviser's General Counsel. The Committee's membership shall be limited to full-time employees of the Investment Adviser. No person with any investment banking, trading, retail brokerage or research responsibilities for the Investment Adviser's affiliates may serve as a member of the Committee or participate in its decision making (except to the extent such person is asked by the Committee to present information to the Committee, on the same basis as other interested knowledgeable parties not affiliated with the Investment Adviser might be asked to do so). The Committee determines how to vote the proxies of all clients, including the Fund, that have delegated proxy voting authority to the Investment Adviser and seeks to ensure that all votes are consistent with the best interests of those clients and are free from unwarranted and inappropriate influences. The Committee establishes general proxy voting policies for the Investment Adviser and is responsible for determining how those policies are applied to specific proxy votes, in light of each issuer's unique structure, management, strategic options and, in certain circumstances, probable economic and other anticipated consequences of alternate actions. In so doing, the Committee may determine to vote a particular proxy in a manner contrary to its generally stated policies. In addition, the Committee will be responsible for ensuring that all reporting and recordkeeping requirements related to proxy voting are fulfilled. The Committee may determine that the subject matter of a recurring proxy issue is not suitable for general voting policies and requires a case-by-case determination. In such cases, the Committee may elect not to adopt a specific voting policy applicable to that issue. The Investment Adviser believes that certain proxy voting issues require investment analysis - such as approval of mergers and other significant corporate transactions - akin to investment decisions, and are, therefore, not suitable for general guidelines. The Committee may elect to adopt a common position for the Investment Adviser on certain proxy votes that are akin to investment decisions, or determine to permit the portfolio manager to make individual decisions on how best to maximize economic value for the Fund (similar to normal buy/sell investment decisions made by such portfolio managers). While it is expected that the Investment Adviser will generally seek to vote proxies over which the Investment Adviser exercises voting authority in a uniform manner for all the Investment Adviser's clients, the Committee, in conjunction with the Fund's portfolio manager, may determine that the Fund's specific circumstances require that its proxies be voted differently, 42 To assist the Investment Adviser in voting proxies, the Committee has retained Institutional Shareholder Services ("ISS"). ISS is an independent adviser that specializes in providing a variety of fiduciary-level proxy-related services to institutional investment managers, plan sponsors, custodians, consultants, and other institutional investors. The services provided to the Investment Adviser by ISS include in-depth research, voting recommendations (although the Investment Adviser is not obligated to follow such recommendations), vote execution, and recordkeeping. ISS will also assist the Fund in fulfilling its reporting and recordkeeping obligations under the 1940 Act. The Investment Adviser's Proxy Voting Procedures also address special circumstances that can arise in connection with proxy voting. For instance, under the Proxy Voting Procedures, the Investment Adviser generally will not seek to vote proxies related to portfolio securities that are on loan, although it may do so under certain circumstances. In addition, the Investment Adviser will vote proxies related to securities of foreign issuers only on a best efforts basis and may elect not to vote at all in certain countries where the Committee determines that the costs associated with voting generally outweigh the benefits. The Committee may

at any time override these general policies if it determines that such action is in the best interests of the Fund. From time to time, the Investment Adviser may be required to vote proxies in respect of an issuer where an affiliate of the Investment Adviser (each, an "Affiliate"), or a money management or other client of the Investment Adviser (each, a "Client") is involved. The Proxy Voting Procedures and the Investment Adviser's adherence to those procedures are designed to address such conflicts of interest. The Committee intends to strictly adhere to the Proxy Voting Procedures in all proxy matters, including matters involving Affiliates and Clients. If, however, an issue representing a non-routine matter that is material to an Affiliate or a widely known Client is involved such that the Committee does not reasonably believe it is able to follow its guidelines (or if the particular proxy matter is not addressed by the guidelines) and vote impartially, the Committee may, in its discretion for the purposes of ensuring that an independent determination is reached, retain an independent fiduciary to advise the Committee on how to vote or to cast votes on behalf of the Investment Adviser's clients. In the event that the Committee determines not to retain an independent fiduciary, or it does not follow the advice of such an independent fiduciary, the powers of the Committee shall pass to a subcommittee, appointed by the CIO (with advice from the Secretary of the Committee), consisting solely of Committee members selected by the CIO. The CIO shall appoint to the subcommittee, where appropriate, only persons whose job responsibilities do not include contact with the Client and whose job evaluations would not be affected by the Investment Adviser's relationship with the Client (or failure to retain such relationship). The subcommittee shall determine whether and how to vote all proxies on behalf of the Investment Adviser's clients or, if the proxy matter is, in their judgment, akin to an investment decision, to defer to the applicable portfolio managers, provided that, if the subcommittee determines to alter the Investment Adviser's normal voting guidelines or, on matters where the Investment Adviser's policy is case-by-case, does not follow the voting recommendation of any proxy voting service or other independent fiduciary that may be retained to provide research or advice to the Investment Adviser on that matter, no proxies relating to the Client may be voted unless the Secretary, or in the Secretary's absence, the Assistant Secretary of the Committee concurs that the subcommittee's determination is consistent with the Investment Adviser's fiduciary duties. In addition to the general principles outlined above, the Investment Adviser has adopted voting guidelines with respect to certain recurring proxy issues that are not expected to involve unusual circumstances. These policies are guidelines only, and the Investment Adviser may elect to vote differently from the recommendation set forth in a voting guideline if the Committee determines that it is in the Fund's best interest to do so. In 43 addition, the guidelines may be reviewed at any time upon the request of a Committee member and may be amended or deleted upon the vote of a majority of Committee members present at a Committee meeting at which there is a quorum. The Investment Adviser has adopted specific voting guidelines with respect to the following proxy issues: o Proposals related to the composition of the Board of Directors of issuers other than investment companies. As a general matter, the Committee believes that a company's Board of Directors (rather than stockholders) is most likely to have access to important, nonpublic information regarding a company's business and prospects, and is therefore best-positioned to set corporate policy and oversee management. The Committee, therefore, believes that the foundation of good corporate governance is the election of qualified, independent corporate directors who are likely to diligently represent the interests of stockholders and oversee management of the corporation in a manner that will seek to maximize stockholder value over time. In individual cases, the Committee may look at a nominee's history of representing stockholder interests as a director of other companies or other factors, to the extent the Committee deems relevant. o Proposals related to the selection of an issuer's independent auditors. As a general matter, the Committee believes that corporate auditors have a responsibility to represent the interests of stockholders and provide an independent view on the propriety of financial reporting decisions of corporate management. While the Committee will generally defer to a corporation's choice of auditor, in individual cases, the Committee may look at an auditors' history of representing stockholder interests as auditor of other companies, to the extent the Committee deems relevant. o Proposals related to management compensation and employee benefits. As a general matter, the Committee favors disclosure of an issuer's compensation and benefit policies and opposes excessive compensation, but believes that compensation matters are normally best determined by an issuer's board of directors, rather than stockholders. Proposals to "micro-manage" an issuer's compensation practices or to set arbitrary restrictions on compensation or benefits will, therefore, generally not be supported. o Proposals related to requests, principally from management, for approval of amendments that would alter an issuer's capital structure. As a general matter, the Committee will support requests that enhance the rights of common stockholders and oppose requests that appear to be unreasonably dilutive. o Proposals related to requests for approval of amendments to an issuer's charter or by-laws.

As a general matter, the Committee opposes poison pill provisions. o Routine proposals related to requests regarding the formalities of corporate meetings, o Proposals related to proxy issues associated solely with holdings of investment company shares. As with other types of companies, the Committee believes that a fund's Board of Directors (rather than its stockholders) is best-positioned to set fund policy and oversee management. However, the Committee opposes granting Boards of Directors authority over certain matters, such as changes to a fund's investment objective, that the Investment Company Act envisions will be approved directly by stockholders. 44 o Proposals related to limiting corporate conduct in some manner that relates to the stockholder's environmental or social concerns. The Committee generally believes that annual stockholder meetings are inappropriate forums for discussion of larger social issues, and opposes stockholder resolutions "micro-managing" corporate conduct or requesting release of information that would not help a stockholder evaluate an investment in the corporation as an economic matter. While the Committee is generally supportive of proposals to require corporate disclosure of matters that seem relevant and material to the economic interests of stockholders, the Committee is generally not supportive of proposals to require disclosure of corporate matters for other purposes. PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS Subject to policies established by the Board of Directors, the Investment Adviser is primarily responsible for the execution of the Fund's portfolio transactions and the allocation of brokerage. The Fund has no obligation to deal with any dealer or group of dealers in the execution of transactions in portfolio securities of the Fund. Where possible, the Fund deals directly with the dealers who make a market in the securities involved except in those circumstances where better prices and execution are available elsewhere. It is the policy of the Fund to obtain the best results in conducting portfolio transactions for the Fund, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable dealer spread or commission), the size, type and difficulty of the transaction involved, the firm's general execution and operations facilities and the firm's risk in positioning the securities involved. The cost of portfolio securities transactions of the Fund primarily consists of dealer or underwriter spreads and brokerage commissions. While reasonable competitive spreads or commissions are sought, the Fund will not necessarily be paying the lowest spread or commission available on any particular transaction. Subject to obtaining the best net results, dealers who provide supplemental investment research (such as quantitative and modeling information assessments and statistical data and provide other similar services) to the Investment Adviser may receive orders for transactions by the Fund. Information so received will be in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by the Investment Adviser under the Investment Advisory Agreement and the expense of the Investment Adviser will not necessarily be reduced as a result of the receipt of such supplemental information. Supplemental investment research obtained from such dealers might be used by the Investment Adviser in servicing all of its accounts and such research might not be used by the Investment Adviser in connection with the Fund. The Fund invests in securities traded in the over-the-counter markets, and the Fund intends to deal directly with dealers who make markets in the securities involved, except in those circumstances where better execution is available elsewhere. Under the 1940 Act, except as permitted by exemptive order, persons affiliated with the Fund, including Merrill Lynch, are prohibited from dealing with the Fund as principal in the purchase and sale of securities. Since transactions in the over-the-counter market usually involve transactions with dealers acting as principals for their own accounts, the Fund does not deal with Merrill Lynch and its affiliates in connection with such principal transactions except that, pursuant to exemptive orders obtained by the Investment Adviser, the Fund may engage in principal transactions with Merrill Lynch in high quality, short term, tax exempt securities. See "Investment Restrictions." However, affiliated persons of the Fund, including Merrill Lynch, may serve as its brokers in certain over-the-counter transactions conducted on an agency basis. In addition, the Fund has received an exemptive order, under which it may purchase investment grade Municipal Bonds through group orders from an underwriting syndicate of which Merrill Lynch is a member subject to conditions set forth in such order (the "Group Order Exemptive Order"). A group order is an order for securities held in an underwriting syndicate for the account of all members of the syndicate, and in proportion to their respective participation in the syndicate. 45 The Fund also may purchase tax exempt debt instruments in individually negotiated transactions with the issuers. Because an active trading market may not exist for such securities, the prices that the Fund may pay for these securities or receive on their resale may be lower than that for similar securities with a more liquid market. Certain court decisions have raised questions as to the extent to which investment companies should seek exemptions under the 1940 Act in order to seek to recapture underwriting and dealer spreads from affiliated entities. The Fund's Board of Directors has considered all factors deemed relevant and has made a determination not to seek such recapture at this time. The Board of Directors will reconsider this matter from time to time. The Fund has received an exemptive order from the Commission

permitting it to lend portfolio securities to Merrill Lynch or its affiliates. Pursuant to that order, the Fund also has retained an affiliated entity of the Investment Adviser as the securities lending agent for a fee, including a fee based on a share of the returns on investment of cash collateral. That entity may, on behalf of the Fund, invest cash collateral received by the Fund for such loans, among other things, in a private investment company managed by that entity or in registered money market funds advised by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates. Securities held by the Fund may also be held by, or be appropriate investments for, other funds or investment advisory clients for which the Investment Adviser or its affiliates act as an adviser. Because of different investment objectives or other factors, a particular security may be bought for an advisory client when other clients are selling the same security. If purchases or sales of securities by the Investment Adviser for the Fund or other funds for which it acts as investment adviser or for other advisory clients arise for consideration at or about the same time, transactions in such securities will be made, insofar as feasible, for the respective funds and clients in a manner deemed equitable to all. Transactions effected by the Investment Adviser (or its affiliates) on behalf of more than one of its clients during the same period may increase the demand for securities being purchased or the supply of securities being sold, causing an adverse effect on price. Section 11(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 generally prohibits members of the U.S. national securities exchanges from executing exchange transactions for their affiliates and institutional accounts that they manage unless the member (i) has obtained prior express authorization from the account to effect such transactions, (ii) at least annually furnishes the account with a statement setting forth the aggregate compensation received by the member in effecting such transactions, and (iii) complies with any rules the Commission has prescribed with respect to the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii). To the extent Section 11(a) would apply to Merrill Lynch acting as a broker for the Fund in any of its portfolio transactions executed on any such securities exchange of which it is a member, appropriate consents have been obtained from the Fund and annual statements as to aggregate compensation will be provided to the Fund. Portfolio Turnover Generally, the Fund does not purchase securities for short term trading profits. However, the Fund may dispose of securities without regard to the time they have been held when such actions, for defensive or other reasons, appear advisable to the Investment Adviser. While it is not possible to predict turnover rates with any certainty, at present it is anticipated that the Fund's annual portfolio turnover rate, under normal market conditions, should be less than 100%. (The portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the particular fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the particular fiscal year. For purposes of determining this rate, all securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition are one year or less are excluded.) A high portfolio turnover rate results in greater transaction costs, which are borne directly by the Fund and also has certain tax consequences for stockholders. 46 DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS The Fund intends to distribute dividends from its net investment income monthly to holders of common stock. It is expected that the Fund will commence paying dividends to holders of common stock within approximately 90 days of the date of this prospectus. From and after issuance of the preferred stock, monthly dividends to holders of common stock normally will consist of net investment income remaining after the payment of dividends (and any Additional Distributions) on the preferred stock. The Fund currently intends either to pay out less than the entire amount of net investment income earned in any particular period or pay out such accumulated undistributed income in addition to net investment income earned in other periods in order to permit the Fund to maintain a more stable level of dividend distributions. As a result, the dividend paid by the Fund to holders of common stock for any particular period may be more or less than the amount of net investment income earned by the Fund during such period. The Fund is not required to attempt to maintain a more stable level of distributions to stockholders and may choose not to do so. For Federal tax purposes, the Fund is required to distribute substantially all of its net investment income for each calendar year. All net realized capital gains, if any, will be distributed pro rata at least annually to holders of common stock and any preferred stock. While any shares of preferred stock are outstanding, the Fund may not declare any cash dividend or other distribution on its common stock, unless at the time of such declaration, (i) all accumulated preferred stock dividends, including any Additional Distribution, have been paid, and (ii) the net asset value of the Fund's portfolio (determined after deducting the amount of such dividend or other distribution) is at least 200% of the liquidation value of the outstanding preferred stock (expected to equal the original purchase price of the outstanding shares of preferred stock plus any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon and any accumulated but unpaid Additional Distribution). If the Fund's ability to make distributions on its common stock is limited, such limitation could under certain circumstances impair the ability of the Fund to maintain its qualification for taxation as a regulated investment company, which would have adverse tax

consequences for stockholders. See "Taxes." See "Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan" for information concerning the manner in which dividends and distributions to holders of common stock may be automatically reinvested in shares of common stock of the Fund. Dividends and distributions may be taxable to stockholders under certain circumstances as discussed below, whether they are reinvested in shares of the Fund or received in cash. The yield on the Fund's common stock will vary from period to period depending on factors including, but not limited to, the length of the initial investment period, market conditions, the ability of the issuer of the portfolio securities to pay interest on such securities, the timing of the Fund's investment in portfolio securities, the securities comprising the Fund's portfolio, changes in tax exempt interest rates (which may not change to the same extent or in the same direction as taxable rates) including changes in the relationship between short term rates and long term rates, the amount and timing of the issuance of the Fund's preferred stock, the effects of preferred stock leverage on the common stock discussed above under "Risks and Special Considerations of Leverage," the timing of the investment of preferred stock proceeds in portfolio securities, the Fund's net assets and its operating expenses. Consequently, the Fund cannot guarantee any particular yield on its shares and the yield for any given period is not an indication or representation of future yields on Fund shares. TAXES General The Fund intends to elect and to qualify for the special tax treatment afforded regulated investment companies ("RICs") under the Code. As long as it so qualifies, in any taxable year in which it distributes at least 47 90% of its taxable net income and 90% of its tax exempt net income (see below), the Fund (but not its stockholders) will not be subject to Federal income tax to the extent that it distributes its net investment income and net realized capital gains. The Fund intends to distribute substantially all of such income. The Code requires a regulated investment company to pay a nondeductible 4% excise tax to the extent the RIC does not distribute, during each calendar year, 98% of its ordinary income, determined on a calendar year basis, and 98% of its capital gains, determined, in general, on an October 31 year-end, plus certain undistributed amounts from previous years. The required distributions, however, are based only on the taxable income of a RIC. The excise tax, therefore, generally will not apply to the tax exempt income of a RIC, such as the Fund, that pays exempt-interest dividends. The Fund intends to qualify to pay "exempt-interest dividends" as defined in Section 852(b)(5) of the Code. Under such section if, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of its total assets consists of obligations the interest on which is excludable from gross income for Federal income tax purposes ("tax exempt obligations") under Section 103(a) of the Code (relating generally to obligations of a state or local governmental unit), the Fund shall be qualified to pay exempt-interest dividends to its stockholders. Exempt-interest dividends are dividends or any part thereof paid by the Fund that are attributable to interest on tax exempt obligations and designated by the Fund as exempt-interest dividends in a written notice mailed to the Fund's stockholders within 60 days after the close of its taxable year. To the extent that the dividends distributed to the Fund's stockholders are derived from interest income excludable from gross income for Federal income tax purposes under Code Section 103(a) and are properly designated as exempt-interest dividends, they will be excludable from a stockholder's gross income for Federal income tax purposes. Exempt-interest dividends are included, however, in determining the portion, if any, of a person's social security and railroad retirement benefits subject to Federal income taxes. Each stockholder is advised to consult a tax adviser with respect to whether exempt-interest dividends retain the exclusion under Code Section 103(a) if such stockholder would be treated as a "substantial user" or "related person" under Code Section 147(a) with respect to property financed with the proceeds of an issue of PABs or IDBs, if any, held by the Fund. To the extent that the Fund's distributions are derived from interest on its taxable investments or from an excess of net short term capital gains over net long term capital losses ("ordinary income dividends"), such distributions are considered taxable ordinary income for Federal income tax purposes. Distributions, if any, from an excess of net long term capital gains over net short term capital losses derived from the sale of securities or from certain transactions in futures or options ("capital gain dividends") are taxable as long term capital gains for Federal income tax purposes, regardless of the length of time the stockholder has owned Fund shares. Generally not later than 60 days after the close of its taxable year, the Fund will provide its stockholders with a written notice designating the amounts of any exempt-interest dividends and capital gain dividends. Distributions by the Fund, whether from exempt-income, ordinary income or capital gains, are not eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code. All or a portion of the Fund's gain from the sale or redemption of tax exempt obligations purchased at a market discount will be treated as ordinary income rather than capital gain. This rule may increase the amount of ordinary income dividends received by stockholders. Distributions in excess of the Fund's earnings and profits will first reduce the adjusted tax basis of a holder's shares and, after such adjusted tax basis is reduced to zero,

will constitute capital gains to such holder (assuming the shares are held as a capital asset). The sale or exchange 48 of common stock normally will result in capital gain or loss to the holders of common stock who hold their shares as capital assets. Generally, a stockholder's gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than one year. No loss will be allowed on the sale of common stock if the stockholder purchases other common stock of the Fund (whether through reinvestment or distributions or otherwise) or the stockholder acquires or enters into a contract or an option to acquire shares that are substantially identical to common stock of the Fund within a period of 61 days beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after such sale or exchange. If disallowed, the loss will be reflected in an adjustment to the basis of the shares acquired. Any loss upon the sale or exchange of Fund shares held for six months or less will be disallowed to the extent of any exempt-interest dividends received by the stockholder. In addition, any such loss that is not disallowed under the rule stated above will be treated as long term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain dividends received by the stockholder. If you borrow money to buy the Fund's common stock, you may not be permitted to deduct the interest on that loan. Under Federal income tax rules, the Fund's common stock may be treated as having been bought with borrowed money even if the purchase of the Fund's common stock cannot be traced directly to borrowed money. Stockholders should consult their own tax advisers regarding the impact of an investment in common stock upon the deductibility of interest payable by the stockholder. Prior to purchasing the Fund's common stock, an investor should carefully consider the impact of dividends which are expected to be or have been declared, but not paid. Any dividend declared shortly after a purchase of the Fund's common stock prior to the record date will have the effect of reducing the per share net asset value by the per share amount of the dividend. If the Fund pays a dividend in January that was declared in the previous October, November or December to stockholders of record on a specified date in one of such months, then such dividend will be treated for tax purposes as being paid by the Fund and received by its stockholders on December 31 of the year in which such dividend was declared. The Internal Revenue Service ("Service") has taken the position in a revenue ruling that if a RIC has two or more classes of shares, it may designate distributions made to each class in any year as consisting of no more than such class's proportionate share of particular types of income, including exempt-interest income and net long term capital gains. A class's proportionate share of a particular type of income is determined according to the percentage of total dividends paid by the RIC during such year that was paid to such class. Consequently, when common stock and one or more series of preferred stock are outstanding, the Fund intends to designate distributions made to the classes as consisting of particular types of income in accordance with each class's proportionate share of such income. Thus, the Fund will designate dividends paid as exempt-interest dividends in a manner that allocates such dividends among the holders of common stock and each series of preferred stock in proportion to the total dividends paid to each class during the taxable year, or otherwise as required by applicable law. Capital gain dividends will similarly be allocated among the classes in proportion to the total dividends paid to each class during the taxable year, or otherwise as required by applicable law. When capital gain or other taxable income is allocated to holders of preferred stock pursuant to the allocation rules described above, the terms of the preferred stock may require the Fund to make an additional distribution to or otherwise compensate such holders for the tax liability resulting from such allocation. The Code subjects interest received on certain otherwise tax exempt securities to a Federal alternative minimum tax. The Federal alternative minimum tax applies to interest received on certain "private activity bonds" issued after August 7, 1986. Private activity bonds are bonds that, although tax exempt, are used for purposes other than those performed by governmental units and that benefit non-governmental entities (e.g., bonds used for industrial development or housing purposes). Income received on such bonds is classified as an 49 item of "tax preference" which could subject certain investors in such bonds, including stockholders of the Fund, to an increased Federal alternative minimum tax. The Fund intends to purchase such "private activity bonds" and will report to stockholders within 60 days after calendar year-end the portion of its dividends declared during the year that constitutes an item of tax preference for Federal alternative minimum tax purposes. The Code further provides that corporations are subject to a Federal alternative minimum tax based, in part, on certain differences between taxable income as adjusted for other tax preferences and the corporation's "adjusted current earnings," which more closely reflect a corporation's economic income. Because an exempt-interest dividend paid by the Fund will be included in adjusted current earnings, a corporate stockholder may be required to pay a Federal alternative minimum tax on exempt-interest dividends paid by the Fund. The Fund may invest in instruments the return on which includes nontraditional features such as indexed principal or interest payments ("nontraditional instruments"). These instruments may be subject to special tax rules under which the Fund may be required to accrue and distribute income

before amounts due under the obligations are paid. In addition, it is possible that all or a portion of the interest payments on such nontraditional instruments could be recharacterized as taxable ordinary income. The Fund may engage in interest rate swaps. The Federal income tax rules governing the taxation of interest rate swaps are not entirely clear and may require the Fund to treat payments received under such arrangements as ordinary income and to amortize payments made under certain circumstances. Additionally, because the treatment of swaps under the RIC qualification rules is not clear, the Fund will monitor its activity in this regard in order to maintain its qualification as a RIC. Because payments received by the Fund in connection with swap transactions will be taxable rather than tax exempt, they may result in increased taxable distributions to stockholders. Certain transactions of the Fund are subject to complex Federal income tax provisions that may, among other things, (a) affect the character of gains and losses realized, (b) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, and (c) accelerate the recognition of income. Operation of these tax rules could, therefore, affect the character, amount and timing of distributions and result in increased taxable distributions to stockholders. Special tax rules also will require the Fund to mark to market certain types of positions in its portfolio (i.e., treat them as sold on the last day of the taxable year), and may result in the recognition of income without a corresponding receipt of cash. The Fund intends to monitor its transactions, make appropriate tax elections and make appropriate entries in its books and records to lessen the effect of these tax rules and avoid any possible disqualification for the special treatment afforded RICs under the Code. If at any time when shares of preferred stock are outstanding the Fund does not meet the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act, the Fund will be required to suspend distributions to holders of common stock until the asset coverage is restored. See "Dividends and Distributions." This may prevent the Fund from distributing at least 90% of its net investment income and may, therefore, jeopardize the Fund's qualification for taxation as a RIC. If the Fund were to fail to qualify as a RIC, some or all of the distributions paid by the Fund would be fully taxable for Federal income tax purposes. Upon any failure to meet the asset coverage requirements of the 1940 Act, the Fund, in its sole discretion, may redeem shares of preferred stock in order to maintain or restore the requisite asset coverage and avoid the adverse consequences to the Fund and its stockholders of failing to qualify as a RIC. There can be no assurance, however, that any such action would achieve such objectives. As noted above, the Fund must distribute annually at least 90% of its net taxable and tax exempt interest income. A distribution will only be counted for this purpose if it qualifies for the dividends paid deduction under the Code. Some types of preferred stock that the Fund contemplates issuing may raise an issue as to whether 50 distributions on such preferred stock are "preferential" under the Code and, therefore, not eligible for the dividends paid deduction. The Fund intends to issue preferred stock that counsel advises will not result in the payment of a preferential dividend. If the Fund ultimately relies solely on a legal opinion when it issues such preferred stock, there is no assurance that the Service would agree that dividends on the preferred stock are not preferential. If the Service successfully disallowed the dividends paid deduction for dividends on the preferred stock, the Fund could be disqualified as a RIC. In this case, dividends paid by the Fund would not be exempt from Federal income taxes. Additionally, the Fund would be subject to Federal income tax including the Federal alternative minimum tax. The value of shares acquired pursuant to the Fund's dividend reinvestment plan will generally be excluded from gross income to the extent that the cash amount reinvested would be excluded from gross income. If, when the Fund's shares are trading at a premium over net asset value, the Fund issues shares pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan that have a greater fair market value than the amount of cash reinvested, it is possible that all or a portion of such discount (which may not exceed 5% of the fair market value of the Fund's shares) could be viewed as a taxable distribution. If the discount is viewed as a taxable distribution, it is also possible that the taxable character of this discount would be allocable to all of the stockholders, including stockholders who do not participate in the dividend reinvestment plan. Thus, stockholders who do not participate in the dividend reinvestment plan, as well as dividend reinvestment plan participants, might be required to report as ordinary income a portion of their distributions equal to their allocable share of the discount. Under certain Code provisions, some taxpayers may be subject to a withholding tax on certain ordinary income dividends and on capital gain dividends and redemption payments ("backup withholding"). Generally, stockholders subject to backup withholding are those for whom no certified taxpayer identification number is on file with the Fund or who, to the Fund's knowledge, have furnished an incorrect number. When establishing an account, an investor must certify under penalty of perjury that such number is correct and that such investor is not otherwise subject to backup withholding. The Fund is generally not an appropriate investment for retirement plans, other entities that are not subject to tax and foreign stockholders, ------ State and Local Taxes The exemption from Federal income tax for exempt-interest dividends does not necessarily result in an

exemption for such dividends under the income or other tax laws of any state or local taxing authority. Stockholders are advised to consult their own tax advisers concerning state and local matters. In some states, the portion of any exempt-interest dividend that is derived from interest received by a RIC on its holdings of that state's securities and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities is exempt from that state's income tax. Therefore, the Fund will report annually to its stockholders the percentage of interest income earned by the Fund during the preceding year on tax-exempt obligations indicating, on a state-by-state basis, the source of such income. The foregoing is a general and abbreviated summary of the applicable provisions of the Code and Treasury Regulations presently in effect. For the complete provisions, reference should be made to the pertinent Code sections and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder. The Code and the Treasury Regulations are subject to change by legislative, judicial or administrative action either prospectively or retroactively. 51 Stockholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding specific questions as to Federal, state, local or foreign taxes. AUTOMATIC DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN Pursuant to the Fund's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan"), unless a stockholder is ineligible or elects otherwise, all dividend and capital gains distributions are automatically reinvested by EquiServe, L.P. ("EquiServe"), as agent for stockholders in administering the Plan (the "Plan Agent"), in additional shares of common stock of the Fund. Stockholders whose shares are held in the name of a broker or nominee should contact such broker or nominee to confirm that they are eligible to participate in the Plan. Stockholders who are ineligible or who elect not to participate in the Plan will receive all dividends and distributions in cash paid by check mailed directly to the stockholder of record (or, if the shares are held in street or other nominee name, then to such nominee) by EquiServe, as dividend paying agent. Such stockholders may elect not to participate in the Plan and to receive all distributions of dividends and capital gains in cash by sending written instructions to EquiServe, as dividend paying agent, at the address set forth below. Participation in the Plan is completely voluntary and may be terminated or resumed at any time without penalty by written notice if received by the Plan Agent not less than ten days prior to any dividend record date; otherwise, such termination will be effective with respect to any subsequently declared dividend or capital gains distribution. Whenever the Fund declares an ordinary income dividend or a capital gain dividend (collectively referred to as "dividends") payable either in shares or in cash, non-participants in the Plan will receive cash, and participants in the Plan will receive the equivalent in shares of common stock. The shares are acquired by the Plan Agent for the participant's account, depending upon the circumstances described below, either (i) through receipt of additional unissued but authorized shares of common stock from the Fund ("newly issued shares") or (ii) by purchase of outstanding shares of common stock on the open market ("open-market purchases") on the NYSE or elsewhere. If, on the dividend payment date, the net asset value per share of the common stock is equal to or less than the market price per share of the common stock plus estimated brokerage commissions (such condition being referred to herein as "market premium"), the Plan Agent will invest the dividend amount in newly issued shares on behalf of the participant. The number of newly issued shares of common stock to be credited to the participant's account will be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the dividend by the net asset value per share on the date the shares are issued, provided that the maximum discount from the then current market price per share on the date of issuance may not exceed 5%. If on the dividend payment date the net asset value per share is greater than the market value (such condition being referred to herein as "market discount"), the Plan Agent will invest the dividend amount in shares acquired on behalf of the participant in open-market purchases. In the event of a market discount on the dividend payment date, the Plan Agent has until the last business day before the next date on which the shares trade on an "ex-dividend" basis or in no event more than 30 days after the dividend payment date (the "last purchase date") to invest the dividend amount in shares acquired in open-market purchases. It is contemplated that the Fund will pay monthly income dividends. Therefore, the period during which open-market purchases can be made will exist only from the payment date on the dividend through the date before the next "ex-dividend" date, which typically will be approximately ten days. If, before the Plan Agent has completed its open-market purchases, the market price of a share of common stock exceeds the net asset value per share, the average per share purchase price paid by the Plan Agent may exceed the net asset value of the Fund's shares, resulting in the acquisition of fewer shares than if the dividend had been paid in newly issued shares on the dividend payment date. Because of the foregoing difficulty with respect to 52 open-market purchases, the Plan provides that if the Plan Agent is unable to invest the full dividend amount in open-market purchases during the purchase period or if the market discount shifts to a market premium during the purchase period, the Plan Agent will cease making open-market purchases and will invest the uninvested portion of the dividend amount in newly issued shares at the close of business on the last purchase date. The Plan

Agent maintains all stockholders' accounts in the Plan and furnishes written confirmation of all transactions in the account, including information needed by stockholders for tax records. Shares in the account of each Plan participant will be held by the Plan Agent in non-certificated form in the name of the participant, and each stockholder's proxy will include those shares purchased or received pursuant to the Plan. The Plan Agent will forward all proxy solicitation materials to participants and vote proxies for shares held pursuant to the Plan in accordance with the instructions of the participants. In the case of stockholders such as banks, brokers or nominees which hold shares for others who are the beneficial owners, the Plan Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of shares certified from time to time by the record stockholders as representing the total amount registered in the record stockholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who are to participate in the Plan. There will be no brokerage charges with respect to shares issued directly by the Fund as a result of dividends or capital gains distributions payable either in shares or in cash. However, each participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Plan Agent's open-market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of dividends. The automatic reinvestment of dividends and distributions will not relieve participants of any Federal, state or local income tax that may be payable (or required to be withheld) on such dividends. See "Taxes." Stockholders participating in the Plan may receive benefits not available to stockholders not participating in the Plan. If the market price plus commissions of the Fund's shares is higher than the net asset value, participants in the Plan will receive shares of the Fund at less than they could otherwise purchase them and will have shares with a cash value greater than the value of any cash distribution they would have received on their shares. If the market price plus commissions is below the net asset value, participants receive distributions of shares with a net asset value greater than the value of any cash distribution they would have received on their shares. However, there may be insufficient shares available in the market to make distributions in shares at prices below the net asset value. Also, since the Fund does not redeem its shares, the price on resale may be more or less than the net asset value. Experience under the Plan may indicate that changes are desirable. Accordingly, the Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants. All correspondence concerning the Plan should be directed to the Plan Agent at 150 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021. MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENT OPTION Purchasers of shares of common stock of the Fund in this offering will have an investment option consisting of the right to reinvest the net proceeds from a sale of such shares (the "Original Shares") in Class A initial sales charge shares of certain FAM/MLIM advised open-end mutual funds ("Eligible Class A Shares") at 53 their net asset value, without the imposition of the initial sales charge, if the conditions set forth below are satisfied. First, the sale of Fund shares must be made through Merrill Lynch, or another broker-dealer or other financial intermediary ("Selected Dealer") that maintains an arrangement with the open-end fund's distributor for the purchase of the Eligible Class A Shares and the net proceeds therefrom must be immediately reinvested in Eligible Class A Shares. Second, the Fund shares must either have been acquired in the Fund's initial public offering or represent dividends paid on shares of common stock acquired in such offering. Third, the Fund shares must have been continuously maintained in a securities account held at Merrill Lynch or another Selected Dealer. Fourth, there must be a minimum purchase of \$250 to be eligible for the investment option. The Eligible Class A Shares may be redeemed at any time at the next determined net asset value, subject in certain cases to a redemption fee. NET ASSET VALUE Net asset value per share of common stock is determined Monday through Friday as of the close of business on the NYSE (generally, the NYSE closes at 4:00 p.m., Eastern time), on each business day during which the NYSE is open for trading. For purposes of determining the net asset value of a share of common stock, the value of the securities held by the Fund plus any cash or other assets (including interest accrued but not yet received) minus all liabilities (including accrued expenses) and the aggregate liquidation value of any outstanding shares of preferred stock is divided by the total number of shares of common stock outstanding at such time. Expenses, including the fees payable to the Investment Adviser, are accrued daily. The Municipal Bonds in which the Fund invests are traded primarily in the over-the-counter markets. In determining net asset value, the Fund uses the valuations of portfolio securities furnished by a pricing service approved by the Board of Directors. The pricing service typically values portfolio securities at the bid price or the yield equivalent when quotations are readily available. Municipal Bonds for which quotations are not readily available are valued at fair market value on a consistent basis as determined by the pricing service using a matrix system to determine valuations. The procedures of the pricing service and its valuations are reviewed by the officers of the Fund under the general supervision of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has determined in good faith that the use of a pricing

service is a fair method of determining the valuation of portfolio securities. Positions in futures contracts and interest rate swaps are valued at closing prices for such contracts established by the exchange or dealer market on which they are traded, or if market quotations are not readily available, are valued at fair value on a consistent basis using methods approved in good faith by the Board of Directors. The Fund makes available for publication the net asset value of its shares of common stock determined as of the last business day each week. Currently, the net asset values of shares of publicly traded closed-end investment companies investing in debt securities are published in Barron's, the Monday edition of The Wall Street Journal and the Monday and Saturday editions of The New York Times, The value of interest rate swaps, caps and floors is determined in accordance with a formula and then confirmed periodically by obtaining a bank quotation. Positions in options are valued at the last sale price on the market where any such option is principally traded. Positions in futures contracts are valued at closing prices for such contracts established by the exchange on which they are traded. Obligations with remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost unless this method no longer produces fair valuations. Repurchase agreements are valued at cost plus accrued interest. 54 DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK The Fund is authorized to issue 200,000,000 shares of capital stock, par value \$.10 per share, all of which shares initially are classified as common stock. The Board of Directors is authorized, however, to classify and reclassify any unissued shares of capital stock into one or more additional or other classes or series as may be established from time to time by setting or changing in any one or more respects the designations, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications or terms or conditions of redemption of such shares of stock and pursuant to such classification or reclassification to increase or decrease the number of authorized shares of any existing class or series. The Fund may reclassify an amount of unissued common stock as preferred stock and at that time offer shares of preferred stock. See "Risks and Special Considerations of Leverage." Common Stock Shares of common stock, when issued and outstanding, will be fully paid and non-assessable. Stockholders are entitled to share pro rata in the net assets of the Fund available for distribution to stockholders upon liquidation of the Fund. Stockholders are entitled to one vote for each share held. In the event that the Fund issues preferred stock and so long as any shares of the Fund's preferred stock are outstanding, holders of common stock will not be entitled to receive any net income of or other distributions from the Fund unless all accumulated dividends on preferred stock have been paid, and unless asset coverage (as defined in the 1940 Act) with respect to preferred stock would be at least 200% after giving effect to such distributions. See "Risks and Special Considerations of Leverage." The Fund will send unaudited reports at least semi-annually and audited annual financial statements to all of its stockholders. The Investment Adviser provided the initial capital for the Fund by purchasing 6,981 shares of common stock of the Fund for \$100,003. As of the date of this prospectus, the Investment Adviser owned 100% of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Fund. The Investment Adviser may be deemed to control the Fund until such time as it owns less than 25% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. Preferred Stock It is anticipated that the Fund's shares of preferred stock will be issued in one or more series, with rights as determined by the Board of Directors, by action of the Board of Directors without the approval of the holders of common stock. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund is permitted to have outstanding more than one series of preferred stock so long as no single series has a priority over another series as to the distribution of assets of the Fund or the payment of dividends. Holders of common stock have no preemptive right to purchase any shares of preferred stock that might be issued. It is anticipated that the net asset value per share of the preferred stock will equal its original purchase price per share plus accumulated dividends per share. The Fund's Board of Directors has declared its intention to authorize an offering of shares of preferred stock (representing approximately 35% of the Fund's capital immediately after the issuance of such preferred stock) within approximately three months after completion of the offering of common stock, subject to market conditions and to the Board's continuing to believe that leveraging the Fund's capital structure through the 55 issuance of preferred stock is likely to achieve the benefits to the holders of common stock described in the prospectus. Although the terms of the preferred stock, including its dividend rate, voting rights, liquidation preference and redemption provisions will be determined by the Board of Directors (subject to applicable law and the Fund's Charter), the initial series of preferred stock will be structured to carry either a relatively short term dividend rate, in which case periodic redetermination of the dividend rate will be made at relatively short intervals (generally 7 days), or a medium term dividend rate, in which case periodic redetermination of the dividend rate will be made at intervals of up to five years. In either case, such redetermination of the dividend rate will be made through an auction or remarketing procedure. The Board also has indicated that it is likely that the liquidation preference, voting rights and redemption provisions of the preferred stock will be as stated below.

Liquidation Preference. In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Fund, the holders of shares of preferred stock will be entitled to receive a preferential liquidating distribution (expected to equal the original purchase price per share plus an amount equal to accumulated and unpaid dividends whether or not earned or declared) before any distribution of assets is made to holders of common stock. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the preferred stockholders will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of assets by the Fund. A consolidation or merger of the Fund with or into any other corporation or corporations or a sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Fund will not be deemed to be a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Fund. Voting Rights. Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus and except as otherwise required by applicable law, holders of shares of preferred stock will have equal voting rights with holders of shares of common stock (one vote per share) and will vote together with holders of common stock as a single class. In connection with the election of the Fund's Directors, holders of shares of preferred stock, voting as a separate class, will be entitled to elect two of the Fund's Directors, and the remaining Directors will be elected by all holders of capital stock, voting as a single class. So long as any preferred stock is outstanding, the Fund will have not less than five Directors. If at any time dividends on shares of the Fund's preferred stock shall be unpaid in an amount equal to two full years' dividends thereon, the holders of all outstanding shares of preferred stock, voting as a separate class, will be entitled to elect a majority of the Fund's directors until all dividends in default have been paid or declared and set apart for payment. The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of the preferred stock, voting as a separate class, will be required to (i) authorize, create or issue any class or series of stock ranking prior to any series of preferred stock with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets on liquidation or (ii) amend, alter or repeal the provisions of the Charter, whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, so as to adversely affect any of the contract rights expressly set forth in the Charter of holders of preferred stock. Redemption Provisions. It is anticipated that shares of preferred stock will generally be redeemable at the option of the Fund at a price equal to their liquidation preference plus accumulated but unpaid dividends to the date of redemption plus, under certain circumstances, a redemption premium. Shares of preferred stock will also be subject to mandatory redemption at a price equal to their liquidation preference plus accumulated but unpaid dividends to the date of redemption upon the occurrence of certain specified events, such as the failure of the Fund to maintain asset coverage requirements for the preferred stock specified by the rating agencies that issue ratings on the preferred stock. 56 Certain Provisions of the Charter and By-laws The Fund's Charter includes provisions that could have the effect of limiting the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or to change the composition of its Board of Directors and could have the effect of depriving stockholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control of the Fund. A Director may be removed from office with or without cause but only by vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the shares entitled to vote in an election to fill that directorship. In addition, the Charter requires the favorable vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the Fund's shares to approve, adopt or authorize the following: o a merger or consolidation or statutory share exchange of the Fund with any other corporation; o a sale of all or substantially all of the Fund's assets (other than in the regular course of the Fund's investment activities); or o a liquidation or dissolution of the Fund; unless such action has been approved, adopted or authorized by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the total number of Directors fixed in accordance with the By-laws, in which case the affirmative vote of a majority of the Fund's shares of capital stock is required. Following any issuance of preferred stock by the Fund, it is anticipated that the approval, adoption or authorization of the foregoing also would require the favorable vote of a majority of the Fund's shares of preferred stock then entitled to be voted, voting as a separate class. In addition, conversion of the Fund to an open-end investment company would require an amendment to the Fund's Charter. The amendment would have to be declared advisable by the Board of Directors prior to its submission to stockholders. Such an amendment would require the favorable vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the Fund's outstanding shares of capital stock (including any preferred stock) entitled to be voted on the matter, voting as a single class (or a majority of such shares if the amendment was previously approved, adopted or authorized by two-thirds of the total number of Directors fixed in accordance with the By-laws), and, assuming preferred stock is issued, the affirmative vote of a majority of outstanding shares of preferred stock of the Fund, voting as a separate class. Such a vote also would satisfy a separate requirement in the 1940 Act that the change be approved by the stockholders. Stockholders of an open-end investment company may require the company to redeem their shares of common stock at any time (except in certain circumstances as authorized by or under the 1940 Act) at their net asset value, less such redemption charge, if any, as

might be in effect at the time of a redemption. All redemptions will be made in cash. If the Fund is converted to an open-end investment company, it could be required to liquidate portfolio securities to meet requests for redemption, and the common stock would no longer be listed on a stock exchange. Conversion to an open-end investment company would also require changes in certain of the Fund's investment policies and restrictions, such as those relating to the borrowing of money and the purchase of illiquid securities. The Charter and By-laws provide that the Board of Directors has the power, to the exclusion of stockholders, to make, alter or repeal any of the By-laws (except for any By-law specified not to be amended or repealed by the Board), subject to the requirements of the 1940 Act. Neither this provision of the Charter, nor any of the foregoing provisions of the Charter requiring the affirmative vote of 66 2/3% of shares of capital stock of the Fund, can be amended or repealed except by the vote of such required number of shares. 57 The Board of Directors has determined that the 66 2/3% voting requirements described above, which are greater than the minimum requirements under Maryland law or the 1940 Act, are in the best interests of stockholders generally. Reference should be made to the Charter on file with the Commission for the full text of these provisions. The Fund's By-laws generally require that advance notice be given to the Fund in the event a stockholder desires to nominate a person for election to the Board of Directors or to transact any other business at an annual meeting of stockholders. With respect to an annual meeting following the first annual meeting of stockholders, notice of any such nomination or business must be delivered to or received at the principal executive offices of the Fund not less than 60 calendar days nor more than 90 calendar days prior to the anniversary date of the prior year's annual meeting (subject to certain exceptions). In the case of the first annual meeting of stockholders, the notice must be given no later than the tenth calendar day following the day upon which public disclosure of the date of the meeting is first made. Any notice by a stockholder must be accompanied by certain information as provided in the By-laws. CUSTODIAN The Fund's securities and cash are held under a custodian agreement with State Street Bank and Trust Company, 225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. 58 UNDERWRITING The Fund intends to offer the shares through the underwriters. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is acting as representative of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions contained in a purchase agreement between the Fund and the Investment Adviser and the underwriters, the Fund has agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter listed below severally has agreed to purchase from the Fund, the number of shares listed opposite their names below. Number of Underwriter Shares ------ Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Wedbush Morgan Securities Inc....-------of the shares sold pursuant to the purchase agreement if any of these shares are purchased. If an underwriter defaults, the purchase agreement provides that the purchase commitments of the nondefaulting underwriters may be increased or the purchase agreement may be terminated. The Fund and the Investment Adviser have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of those liabilities. The underwriters are offering the shares, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by them, subject to approval of legal matters by their counsel, including the validity of the shares, and other conditions contained in the purchase agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriters of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriters reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part. Commissions and Discounts The underwriters have advised the Fund that they propose initially to offer the shares to the public at the initial public offering price on the cover page of this prospectus and to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of \$ per share. The underwriters may allow, and the dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of \$ per share to other dealers. There is a sales charge or underwriting discount of \$.675 per share, which is 59 equal to 4.5% of the initial public offering price per share. After the initial public offering, the public offering price, concession and discount may be changed. Investors must pay for the shares of common stock purchased in the offering on or before

August, 2003. The following table shows the public offering price, underwriting discount and proceeds before expenses to the Fund. The information assumes either no exercise or full exercise by the underwriters of their overallotment option. Without With Per Share Option Option ------ Public offering price...... The expenses of the offering, excluding underwriting discount, are estimated at \$ and are payable by the Fund. To the extent that the Fund's offering costs do not exceed \$.03 per share of common stock, the Fund has agreed to pay the underwriters up to \$.005 per share of common stock as a partial reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with the offering. However, in no event will the Fund pay offering costs (other than the underwriting discount, but including the partial reimbursement to the underwriters) in excess of \$.03 per share of common stock. The Investment Adviser or an affiliate will pay the amount by which the offering costs (other than the underwriting discount and the \$.005 per share partial reimbursement of expenses to the underwriters) exceeds \$.03 per share of common stock. The Investment Adviser has agreed to pay all of the Fund's organizational expenses. Overallotment Option The Fund has granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to additional shares at the public offering price less the underwriting discount. The underwriters may exercise the option from time to time for 45 days from the date of this prospectus solely to cover any overallotments. If the underwriters exercise this option, each will be obligated, subject to conditions contained in the purchase agreement, to purchase a number of additional shares proportionate to that underwriter's initial amount reflected in the above table. Price Stabilization, Short Positions and Penalty Bids Until the distribution of the shares is completed, Commission rules may limit the underwriters and selling group members from bidding for and purchasing the Fund's shares. However, the representatives may engage in transactions that stabilize the price of the shares, such as bids or purchases to peg, fix or maintain that price. If the underwriters create a short position in the shares in connection with the offering, i.e., if they sell more shares than are listed on the cover of this prospectus, the representative may reduce that short position by purchasing shares in the open market. The representative also may elect to reduce any short position by exercising all or part of the overallotment option described above. Purchases of the shares to stabilize its price or to reduce a short position may cause the price of the shares to be higher than it might be in the absence of such purchases. 60 The representative also may impose a penalty bid on underwriters and selling group members. This means that if the representative purchases shares in the open market to reduce the underwriters' short position or to stabilize the price of such shares, it may reclaim the amount of the selling concession from the underwriters and selling group members who sold those shares. The imposition of a penalty bid also may affect the price of the shares in that it discourages resales of those shares. Neither the Fund nor any of the underwriters makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the shares. In addition, neither the Fund nor any of the underwriters makes any representation that the representative will engage in such transactions or that such transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice. New York Stock Exchange Listing Prior to this offering, there has been no public market for the shares. The Fund's shares of common stock have been approved for listing on the NYSE under the symbol "MUI," subject to official notice of issuance. In order to meet the requirements for listing, the underwriters have undertaken to sell lots of 100 or more shares to a minimum of 2,000 beneficial owners. Other Relationships The Investment Adviser (and not the Fund) also has agreed to pay a fee to Merrill Lynch quarterly at the annual rate of 0.10% of the Fund's average daily net assets through July 31, 2008 and at the annual rate of 0.15% of the Fund's average daily net assets thereafter during the continuance of the Investment Advisory Agreement. The maximum amount of this fee, plus the partial reimbursement of underwriting expenses discussed above, will not exceed 4.5% of the aggregate initial offering price of the common stock offered hereby. Merrill Lynch has agreed to provide certain after-market services to the Investment Adviser designed to maintain the visibility of the Fund on an ongoing basis and to provide relevant information, studies or reports regarding the Fund and the closed-end investment company industry. The Fund anticipates that Merrill Lynch and other underwriters may from time to time act as brokers in connection with the execution of its portfolio transactions, and after they have ceased to be underwriters, the Fund anticipates that underwriters other than Merrill Lynch may from time to time act as dealers in connection with the execution of portfolio transactions. See "Portfolio Transactions," Merrill Lynch is an affiliate of the Investment Adviser. The address of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is 4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080. TRANSFER AGENT, DIVIDEND DISBURSING AGENT AND REGISTRAR The transfer agent, dividend disbursing agent and registrar for the shares of common stock of the Fund is EquiServe, L.P., 150 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021. ACCOUNTING SERVICES PROVIDER State

Street Bank and Trust Company, 500 College Road East, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, provides certain accounting services for the Fund. 61 LEGAL OPINIONS Certain legal matters in connection with the shares of common stock offered hereby are passed on for the Fund by Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, New York, New York, Certain legal matters will be passed on for the underwriters by Clifford Chance US LLP, New York, New York, Clifford Chance US LLP may rely on the opinion of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP as to certain matters of Maryland law. INDEPENDENT AUDITORS AND EXPERTS Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors, have audited the statement of assets and liabilities of the Fund as of July 17, 2003 which is included in this prospectus and Registration Statement. The statement of assets and liabilities is included in reliance upon their report, which is also included in this prospectus and in the Registration Statement, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION The Fund is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the 1940 Act and in accordance therewith is required to file reports and other information with the Commission. Any such reports and other information, including the Fund's Code of Ethics, can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities of the Commission at Room 1024, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, and at the following regional offices of the Commission: Pacific Regional Office, at 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90036; and Midwest Regional Office, at Northwestern Atrium Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511. Copies of such materials can be obtained from the public reference section of the Commission at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates. The Commission maintains a Web site at http://www.sec.gov containing reports and information statements and other information regarding registrants, including the Fund, that file electronically with the Commission. Reports, proxy statements and other information concerning the Fund can also be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange. Additional information regarding the Fund is contained in the Registration Statement on Form N-2, including amendments, exhibits and schedules thereto, relating to such shares filed by the Fund with the Commission in Washington, D.C. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the Registration Statement, including any amendments, exhibits and schedules thereto. For further information with respect to the Fund and the shares offered hereby, reference is made to the Registration Statement. Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference. A copy of the Registration Statement may be inspected without charge at the Commission's principal office in Washington, D.C., and copies of all or any part thereof may be obtained from the Commission upon the payment of certain fees prescribed by the Commission. 62 REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS To the Board of Directors and Stockholder, Muni Intermediate Duration Fund, Inc.: We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Muni Intermediate Duration Fund, Inc. as of July 17, 2003. This statement of assets and liabilities is the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this statement of assets and liabilities based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement of assets and liabilities is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement of assets and liabilities. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall statement of assets and liabilities presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. In our opinion, the statement of assets and liabilities referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Muni Intermediate Duration Fund, Inc. at July 17, 2003 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. /s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP MetroPark, New Jersey July 21, 2003 63 MUNI INTERMEDIATE DURATION FUND, INC. STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES July 17, Stock, par value \$.10 per share; 200,000,000 shares authorized; 6,981 shares issued and outstanding (Note Capital-Equivalent to \$14.325 net asset value per share of Common Stock (Note 1).....

\$100,003 ===== NOTES TO STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Note 1. Organization The Fund was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland on May 15, 2003 and is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 as a closed-end, non-diversified management investment company and has had no operations other than the sale to Fund Asset Management, L.P. (the "Investment Adviser") of an aggregate of 6,981 shares for \$100,003 on July 17, 2003. The General Partner of the Investment Adviser is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Certain officers and/or directors of the Fund are officers of the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser, on behalf of the Fund, will incur organization costs estimated at \$51,500. To the extent that the Fund's offering costs otherwise do not exceed \$.03 per share of common stock, the Fund has agreed to pay the underwriters up to \$.005 per share of common stock as a partial reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with the offering. However, in no event will the Fund pay offering costs (other than the underwriting discount, but including the partial reimbursement to the underwriters) in excess of \$.03 per share of common stock. The Investment Adviser or an affiliate will pay the amount by which the offering costs of the Fund (other than the underwriting discount, and the \$.005 per share partial reimbursement of expenses to the underwriters) exceeds \$.03 per share of common stock. Direct costs relating to the public offering of the Fund's shares will be charged to capital at the time of issuance of shares. 64 Note 2. Investment Advisory Arrangements The Fund has engaged the Investment Adviser to provide investment advisory and management services to the Fund. The Investment Adviser will receive a monthly fee for advisory and management services at an annual rate of 0.55% of the Fund's average daily net assets (including any proceeds from the issuance of preferred stock), plus the proceeds of any outstanding borrowings used for leverage. The Investment Adviser has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its fee during the first five full years of operations at the annual rate of 0.15% of the average daily net assets of the Fund and at a declining rate for an additional two years. The Investment Adviser has not agreed to waive any portion of its fee beyond the seven year period. Note 3. Federal Income Taxes The Fund intends to qualify as a "regulated investment company" and as such (and by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended) will not be subject to Federal income tax on taxable income (including realized capital gains) that is distributed to stockholders. Note 4. Use of Estimates The Fund's statement of assets and liabilities is prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, which may require the use of management accruals and estimates. Actual results may differ from these estimates, 65 APPENDIX A RATINGS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS Description of Moody's Investors Service, Inc.'s ("Moody's") Municipal Bond Ratings Aaa Bonds which are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues. Aa Bonds which are rated Aa are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the Aaa group they comprise what are generally known as high-grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long term risk in Aa-rated bonds appear somewhat larger than those securities rated Aaa. A Bonds which are rated A possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium-grade-obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment some time in the future. Baa Bonds which are rated Baa are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security appear adequate for the present, but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well. Ba Bonds which are rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered as well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class. B Bonds which are rated B generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small. Caa Bonds which are rated Caa are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest. Ca Bonds which are rated Ca represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings. C Bonds which are rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real

investment standing. Note: Those bonds in the Aa, A, Baa, Ba and B groups which Moody's believes possess the strongest investment attributes are designated by the symbols Aa1, A1, Baa1, Ba1 and B1. A-1 Short term Notes: The three ratings of Moody's for short term notes are MIG 1/VMIG 1, MIG 2/VMIG 2, and MIG 3/VMIG 3; MIG 1/VMIG 1 denotes "best quality, enjoying strong protection from established cash flows"; MIG 2/VMIG 2 denotes "high quality" with "ample margins of protection"; MIG 3/VMIG 3 instruments are of "favorable quality . . . but . . . lacking the undeniable strength of the preceding grades." Description of Moody's Commercial Paper Ratings Moody's Commercial Paper ratings are opinions of the ability of issuers to honor senior financial obligations and contracts. Such obligations generally have an original maturity not exceeding one year, unless explicitly noted. Moody's employs the following three designations, all judged to be investment grade, to indicate the relative repayment ability of rated issuers: Issuers rated Prime-1 (or supporting institutions) have a superior ability for repayment of senior short term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment ability will often be evidenced by many of the following characteristics: leading market positions in well established industries; high rates of return on funds employed; conservative capitalization structures with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection; broad margins in earning coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation; and well established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternate liquidity. Issuers rated Prime-2 (or supporting institutions) have a strong ability to repay senior short term debt obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above, but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, may be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained. Issuers rated Prime-3 (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable ability for repayment of senior short term promissory obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market compositions may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained. Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories. Description of Standard & Poor's, a Division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ("Standard & Poor's"), Municipal Debt Ratings A Standard & Poor's municipal debt rating is a current opinion of the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation, a specific class of financial obligations or a specific program. It takes into consideration the creditworthiness of guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation. The debt rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a financial obligation, inasmuch as it does not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor. The ratings are based on current information furnished by the obligors or obtained by Standard & Poor's from other sources Standard & Poor's considers reliable. Standard & Poor's does not perform an audit in connection with any rating and may, on occasion, rely on unaudited financial information. The ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or unavailability of, such information, or based on circumstances. The ratings are based, in varying degrees, on the following considerations: I. Likelihood of payment--capacity and willingness of the obligor as to the timely payment of interest and repayment of principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation; A-2 II. Nature of and provisions of the obligation; III. Protection afforded to, and relative position of, the obligation in the event of bankruptcy, reorganization or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting creditors' rights, AAA An obligation rated "AAA" has the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong. AA An obligation rated "AA" differs from the highest rated issues only in small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong. A An obligation rated "A" is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than debt in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong, BBB An obligation rated "BBB" exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Obligations rated "BB," "B," "CCC," "CC" and "C" are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. "BB" indicates the least degree of speculation and "C" the highest. While such debt will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions. BB An obligation rated "BB" is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. B An obligation rated "B" is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated 'BB,' but the obligor currently has the

capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation, CCC An obligation rated "CCC" is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. CC An obligation rated "CC" is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. C A subordinated debt or preferred stock obligation rated "C" is CURRENTLY HIGHLY VULNERABLE to nonpayment. The "C" rating may be used to cover a situation where a bankruptcy petition has been filed or similar action taken, but payments on this obligation are being continued. A 'C' also will be assigned to a preferred stock issue in arrears on dividends or sinking fund payments, but that is currently paying. D An obligation rated "D" is in payment default. The "D" rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The "D" rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action if payments on an obligation are jeopardized. A-3 Plus (+) or Minus (-): The ratings from "AA" to "CCC" may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories. Description of Standard & Poor's Commercial Paper Ratings A Standard & Poor's commercial paper rating is a current assessment of the likelihood of timely payment of debt having an original maturity of no more than 365 days. Ratings are graded into several categories, ranging from "A-1" for the highest-quality obligations to "D" for the lowest. These categories are as follows: A-1 This designation indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Those issues determined to possess extremely strong safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation. A-2 Capacity for timely payment on issues with this designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated "A-1". A-3 Issues carrying this designation have an adequate capacity for timely payment. They are, however, more vulnerable to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances than obligations carrying the higher designations. B Issues rated "B" are regarded as having only speculative capacity for timely payment. C This rating is assigned to short term debt obligations with a doubtful capacity for payment. D Debt rated "D" is in payment default. The "D" rating category is used when interest payments of principal payments are not made on the date due, even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless Standard & Poor's believes such payments will be made during such grace period. A commercial paper rating is not a recommendation to purchase or sell a security. The ratings are based on current information furnished to Standard & Poor's by the issuer or obtained by Standard & Poor's from other sources it considers reliable. The ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or unavailability of, such information. A Standard & Poor's note rating reflects the liquidity factors and market access risks unique to notes. Notes due in three years or less will likely receive a note rating. Notes maturing beyond three years will most likely receive a long term debt rating. The following criteria will be used in making that assessment. -- Amortization schedule--the larger the final maturity relative to other maturities, the more likely it will be treated as a note, --Source of payment--the more dependent the issue is on the market for its refinancing, the more likely it will be treated as a note. Note rating symbols are as follows: SP-1 Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation. SP-2 Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes. A-4 Description of Fitch Ratings ("Fitch") Investment Grade Bond Ratings Fitch investment grade bond ratings provide a guide to investors in determining the credit risk associated with a particular security. The rating represents Fitch's assessment of the issuer's ability to meet the obligations of a specific debt issue or class of debt in a timely manner. The rating takes into consideration special features of the issue, its relationship to other obligations of the issuer, the current and prospective financial condition and operating performance of the issuer and any guarantor, as well as the economic and political environment that might affect the issuer's future financial strength and credit quality. Fitch ratings do not reflect any credit enhancement that may be provided by insurance policies or financial guarantees unless otherwise indicated. Bonds carrying the same rating are of similar but not necessarily identical credit quality since the rating categories do not fully reflect small differences in the degrees of credit risk. Fitch ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell, or hold any security. Ratings do not comment on the adequacy of market price, the suitability of any security for a particular investor, or the tax exempt nature or taxability of payments made in respect of any security. Fitch ratings are based on information obtained from issuers, other obligors, underwriters, their experts, and other sources Fitch believes to be reliable. Fitch does not audit

or verify the truth or accuracy of such information. Ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or the unavailability of, information or for other reasons. AAA Bonds considered to be investment grade and of the highest credit quality. The obligor has an exceptionally strong ability to pay interest and repay principal, which is unlikely to be affected by reasonably foreseeable events. AA Bonds considered to be investment grade and of very high credit quality. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal is very strong, although not quite as strong as bonds rated "AAA." Because bonds rated in the "AAA" and "AA" categories are not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable future developments, short term debt of these issuers is generally rated "F-1+." A Bonds considered to be investment grade and of high credit quality. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal is considered to be strong, but may be more vulnerable to adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances than bonds with higher ratings. BBB Bonds considered to be investment grade and of satisfactory-credit quality. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal is considered to be adequate. Adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances, however, are more likely to have adverse impact on these bonds, and therefore impair timely payment. The likelihood that the ratings of these bonds will fall below investment grade is higher than for bonds with higher ratings. Plus (+) or Minus (-): Plus and minus signs are used with a rating symbol to indicate the relative position of a credit within the rating category. Plus and minus signs, however, are not used in the "AAA" category. NR Indicates that Fitch does not rate the specific issue. Conditional A conditional rating is premised on the successful completion of a project or the occurrence of a specific event. A-5 Suspended A rating is suspended when Fitch deems the amount of information available from the issuer to be inadequate for rating purposes. Withdrawn A rating will be withdrawn when an issue matures or is called or refinanced and, at Fitch's discretion, when an issuer fails to furnish proper and timely information. FitchAlert Ratings are placed on FitchAlert to notify investors of an occurrence that is likely to result in a rating change and the likely direction of such change. These are designated as "Positive," indicating a potential upgrade, "Negative," for potential downgrade, or "Evolving," where ratings may be raised or lowered. FitchAlert is relatively short term, and should be resolved within 12 months. Ratings Outlook: An outlook is used to describe the most likely direction of any rating change over the intermediate term. It is described as "Positive" or "Negative." The absence of a designation indicates a stable outlook. Description of Fitch's Speculative Grade Bond Ratings Fitch speculative grade bond ratings provide a guide to investors in determining the credit risk associated with a particular security. The ratings ("BB" to "C") represent Fitch's assessment of the likelihood of timely payment of principal and interest in accordance with the terms of obligation for bond issues not in default. For defaulted bonds, the rating ("DDD" to "D") is an assessment of the ultimate recovery value through reorganization or liquidation. The rating takes into consideration special features of the issue, its relationship to other obligations of the issuer, the current and prospective financial condition and operating performance of the issuer and any guarantor, as well as the economic and political environment that might affect the issuer's future financial strength. Bonds that have the rating are of similar but not necessarily identical credit quality since rating categories cannot fully reflect the differences in degrees of credit risk. BB Bonds are considered speculative. The obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal may be affected over time by adverse economic changes. However, business and financial alternatives can be identified which could assist the obligor in satisfying its debt service requirements. B Bonds are considered highly speculative. While bonds in this class are currently meeting debt service requirements, the probability of continued timely payment of principal and interest reflects the obligor's limited margin of safety and the need for reasonable business and economic activity throughout the life of the issue. CCC Bonds have certain identifiable characteristics which, if not remedied, may lead to default. The ability to meet obligations requires an advantageous business and economic environment. CC Bonds are minimally protected. Default in payment of interest and/or principal seems probable over time. C Bonds are in imminent default in payment of interest or principal. DDD, Bonds are in default on interest and/or principal payments. Such DD, bonds are extremely speculative and should be valued on the basis of and D their ultimate recovery value in liquidation or reorganization of Default the obligor. "DDD" represents the highest potential for recovery on these bonds, and "D" represents the lowest potential for recovery. A-6 Plus (+) or Minus (-): Plus and minus signs are used with a rating symbol to indicate the relative position of a credit within the rating category. Plus and minus signs, however, are not used in the "DDD," "DD," or "D" categories. Description of Fitch's Short Term Ratings Fitch's short term ratings apply to debt obligations that are payable on demand or have original maturities of up to three years, including commercial paper, certificates of deposit, medium term notes, and municipal and investment notes. The short term rating places greater emphasis than a long term rating on the existence of liquidity necessary to meet the issuer's obligations in a timely manner. Fitch short term ratings are as follows: F-1+

Exceptionally Strong Credit Quality. Issues assigned this rating are regarded as having the strongest degree of assurance for timely payment, F-1 Very Strong Credit Quality. Issues assigned this rating reflect an assurance of timely payment only slightly less in degree than issues rated "F-1+." F-2 Good Credit Quality. Issues assigned this rating have a satisfactory degree of assurance for timely payment, but the margin of safety is not as great as for issues assigned "F-1+" and "F-1" ratings. F-3 Fair Credit Quality. Issues assigned this rating have characteristics suggesting that the degree of assurance for timely payment is adequate; however, near-term adverse changes could cause these securities to be rated below investment grade. F-S Weak Credit Quality. Issues assigned this rating have characteristics suggesting a minimal degree of assurance for timely payment and are vulnerable to near-term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions. D Default. Issues assigned this rating are in actual or imminent payment default. LOC The symbol "LOC" indicates that the rating is based on a letter of credit issued by a commercial bank. A-7 APPENDIX B TAXABLE EQUIVALENT YIELDS FOR 2003 Taxable Income* A Tax Exempt Yield of ------ 2003 Federal Tax ---- is equal to a taxable yield of \$28,401-\$68,800 \$56,801-\$114,650 25.00% 6.67% 7.33% 8.00% 8.67% 9.33% 10.00% \$68.801-\$143,500 \$114,651-\$174,700 28.00% 6.94% 7.64% 8.33% 9.03% 9.72%10.42% \$143,501-\$311,950 \$174,701-\$311,950 33.00% 7.46% 8.21% 8.96% 9.70% 10.45% 11.19% Over \$311,950 Over \$311,950 35.00% 7.69% 8.46% 9.23% 10.00% 10.77% 11.54% -------* An investor's marginal tax rates may exceed the rates shown in the above table due to the reduction, or possible elimination, of the personal exemption deduction for high-income taxpayers and an overall limit on itemized deductions. Income also may be subject to certain state and local taxes. For investors who pay Federal alternative minimum tax, tax exempt yields may be equivalent to lower taxable yields than those shown above. The tax rates shown above do not apply to corporate taxpayers. The tax characteristics of the Fund are described more fully elsewhere in this prospectus. Consult your tax adviser for further details. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and cannot be taken as an indication of anticipated Fund performance. B-1

PART C. OTHER INFORMATION Item 24. Financial Statements and Exhibits, (1) Financial Statements: Report of Independent Auditors Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of July 17, 2003 (2) Exhibits: Exhibit Number Description ----- (a) -- Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant. (a) (b) -- By-Laws of the Registrant. (g) (c) -- Not applicable (d)(1) -- Portions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Registrant defining the rights of holders of shares of common stock of the Registrant. (b) (d)(2) -- Form of specimen certificate for shares of common stock of the Registrant.(g) (e) -- Form of Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plan.(g) (f) -- Not applicable (g)(1) -- Form of Investment Advisory Agreement between the Registrant and Fund Asset Management, L.P. ("FAM" or the "Investment Adviser").(g) (g)(2) -- Form of Fee Waiver Agreement between the Registrant and FAM.(g) (h)(1) -- Form of Purchase Agreement between the Registrant and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch") and other underwriters.(g) (h)(2) -- Form of Merrill Lynch Standard Dealer Agreement.(g) (h)(3) --Form of Master Agreement Among Underwriters.(g) (i) -- Not applicable (j) -- Form of Custodian Agreement between the Registrant and State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"). (c) (k)(1) -- Form of Registrar, Transfer Agency, Dividend Disbursing Agency and Stockholder Service Agreement between the Registrant and EquiServe, L.P. (d) (k)(2) -- Form of Administrative Services Agreement between Registrant and State Street. (e) (k)(3) -- Form of Additional Compensation Agreement between FAM and Merrill Lynch.(g) (l) -- Opinion and Consent of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP. (m) -- Not applicable (n) -- Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors for the Registrant. (o) -- Not applicable (p) -- Certificate of FAM. (q) -- Not applicable (r) --

Code of Ethics. (f) -----(a) Filed on May 16, 2003 as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement (the

"Registration Statement") on Form N-2 (File No. 333-105343), (b) Reference is made to Article IV, Article V (sections 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7), Article VI, Article VII, Article VIII, Article IX, Article X and Article XII of the Registrant's Articles of Incorporation, filed as Exhibit (a) C-1 hereto; and to Article II, Article III (sections 1, 2, 3, 5 and 17), Article VI, Article VII, Article XII, Article XIII and Article XIV of the Registrant's By-Laws, filed as Exhibit (b) to the Registration Statement. (c) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 7 to Post-Effective No. 10 to the Registration Statement on Form N-1A of Merrill Lynch Maryland Municipal Bond Fund of Merrill Lynch Multi-State Municipal Series Trust (File No. 33-49873), filed on October 30, 2001. (d) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 13 to Pre-Effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form N-14 of Corporate High Yield Fund, Inc. (File No. 333-10193), filed on December 31, 2002. (e) Incorporated by reference to exhibit 8(d) to Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form N-1A of Merrill Lynch Focus Twenty Fund, Inc. (File No. 333-89775) filed on March 20, 2001. (f) Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 15 to Post-Effective Amendment No. 9 to the Registration Statement on Form N-1A of Merrill Lynch Multi-State Limited Maturity Municipal Series Trust (File No. 33-50417), filed on November 22, 2000. (g) Filed on June 25, 2003 as an exhibit to Pre-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement on Form N-2 (File No. 333-105343). Item 25. Marketing Arrangements. See Exhibits (h)(1) and (2). Item 26. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution. The following table sets forth the estimated expenses to be incurred in connection with the offering described in this Registration ====== Item 27. Persons Controlled by or Under Common Control with Registrant. The information in the prospectus under the captions "Investment Advisory and Management Arrangements" and "Description of Capital Stock--Common Stock" and in Note 1 to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities is incorporated herein by reference. Item 28. Number of Holders of Securities. There will be one record holder of the Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share, as of the effective date of this Registration Statement. Item 29. Indemnification. Reference is made to Section 2-418 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Maryland, Article V of the Registrant's Articles of Incorporation, Article VI of the Registrant's By-laws and Section 6 of the Purchase Agreement, which provide for indemnification. Article VI of the By-laws provides that each officer and director of the Registrant shall be indemnified by the Registrant to the full extent permitted under the Maryland General Corporation Law, except that such indemnity shall not protect any such person against any liability to the Registrant or any stockholder thereof to C-2 which such person would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. Absent a court determination that an officer or director seeking indemnification was not liable on the merits or guilty of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office, the decision by the Registrant to indemnify such person must be based upon the reasonable determination of independent counsel or non-party independent directors, after review of the facts, that such officer or director is not guilty of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. Each officer and director of the Registrant claiming indemnification within the scope of Article VI of the By-laws shall be entitled to advances from the Registrant for payment of the reasonable expenses incurred by him or her in connection with proceedings to which he or she is a party in the manner and to the full extent permitted under the Maryland General Corporation Law; provided, however, that the person seeking indemnification shall provide to the Registrant a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that the standard of conduct necessary for the indemnification by the Registrant has been met and a written undertaking to repay any such advance, if it ultimately should be determined that the standard of conduct has not been met, and provided further that at least one of the following additional conditions is met: (i) the person seeking indemnification shall provide a security in form and amount acceptable to the Registrant for his or her undertaking; (ii) the Registrant is insured against losses arising by reason of the advance; or (iii) a majority of a quorum of non-party independent directors, or independent legal counsel in a written opinion shall determine, based on a review of facts readily available to the Registrant at the time the advance is proposed to be made, that there is reason to believe that the person seeking indemnification will ultimately

be found to be entitled to indemnification. The Registrant may purchase insurance on behalf of an officer or director protecting such person to the full extent permitted under the Maryland General Corporation Law from liability arising from his or her activities as officer or director of the Registrant. The Registrant, however, may not purchase insurance on behalf of any officer or director of the Registrant that protects or purports to protect such person from liability to the Registrant or to its stockholders to which such officer or director would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence, or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. In Section 6 of the Purchase Agreement relating to the securities being offered hereby, the Registrant agrees to indemnify Merrill Lynch and each person, if any, who controls Merrill Lynch within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "1933 Act") against certain types of civil liabilities arising in connection with the Registration Statement or Prospectus. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the 1933 Act may be provided to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant and Merrill Lynch, pursuant to the foregoing provisions or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that, in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the 1933 Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in connection with any successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the 1933 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue. Item 30. Business and Other Connections of the Investment Adviser, FAM acts as the investment adviser for a number of affiliated open-end and closed-end registered investment companies. C-3 Merrill Lynch Investment Managers, L.P. ("MLIM"), an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, acts as the investment adviser for a number of affiliated open-end and closed-end registered investment companies and also acts as subadviser to certain other portfolios. The address of each of these registered investment companies is P.O. Box 9011, Princeton, New Jersey 08543-9011, except that the address of Merrill Lynch Funds for Institutions Series is One Financial Center, 23rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02111-2665. The address of the Investment Adviser, MLIM, Princeton Services, Inc. ("Princeton Services") and Princeton Administrators, L.P. ("Princeton Administrators") is also P.O. Box 9011, Princeton, New Jersey 08543-9011. The address of FAM Distributors, Inc., ("FAMD") is P.O. Box 9081, Princeton, New Jersey 08543-9081. The address of Merrill Lynch and Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("ML & Co.") is World Financial Center, North Tower, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10080. The address of the Fund's transfer agent, EquiServe, L.P. (the "Transfer Agent"), is 150 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021. Set forth below is a list of each executive officer and partner of the Investment Adviser indicating each business, profession, vocation or employment of a substantial nature in which each such person or entity has been engaged for the past two years for his, her or its own account or in the capacity of director, officer, employee, partner or Director. Mr. Burke is Vice President and Treasurer of all or substantially all of the investment companies advised by FAM or its affiliates, and Mr. Doll is an officer of one or more of such companies. Position(s) with Other Substantial Business, Name Investment Adviser Profession, Vocation Or Employment -----

Partner of MLIM Princeton Services General Partner General Partner of MLIM Robert C. Doll, Jr. President President of MLIM; President of Princeton Services; Chief Investment Officer of OppenheimerFunds, Inc. in 1999 and Executive Vice President thereof from 1991 to 1999 Donald C. Burke First Vice President and First Vice President, Treasurer and Director of Treasurer; Director of Taxation of MLIM; Senior Vice President and Taxation of MLIM Treasurer of Princeton Services; Vice President of FAMD Lawrence D. Haber First Vice President First Vice President of MLIM; Senior Vice President and Treasurer of Princeton Services Brian A. Murdock Senior Vice President and Senior Vice President of MLIM and Chief Operating Chief Operating Officer Officer of MLIM Americas; Chief Investment Officer of EMEA Pacific Region and Global CIO for Fixed Income and Alternative Investments; Head of MLIM's Pacific Region and President of MLIM Japan, Australia and Asia Andrew J. Donohue General Counsel General Counsel of MLIM and Princeton Services C-4 Item 31. Location of Account and Records. All accounts, books and other documents required to be maintained by Section 31(a) of the 1940 Act, and the Rules promulgated thereunder are maintained at the offices of the Registrant (800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536), its custodian, State

Street Bank and Trust Company (225 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110), and its Transfer Agent (150 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021). Item 32. Management Services. Not applicable. Item 33. Undertakings. (a) The Registrant undertakes to suspend the offering of the shares of common stock covered hereby until it amends its prospectus contained herein if (1) subsequent to the effective date of this Registration Statement, its net asset value per share of common stock declines more than 10% from its net asset value per share of common stock as of the effective date of this Registration Statement, or (2) its net asset value per share of common stock increases to an amount greater than its net proceeds as stated in the prospectus contained herein. (b) The Registrant undertakes that: (1) For purposes of determining any liability under the 1933 Act, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this Registration Statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in the form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 497(h) under the 1933 Act shall be deemed to be part of this Registration Statement as of the time it was declared effective. (2) For the purpose of determining any liability under the 1933 Act, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. C-5 SIGNATURES Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Registrant has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the Township of Plainsboro, State of New Jersey, on the 29th day of July, 2003. MUNI NEW YORK INTERMEDIATE DURATION FUND, INC. (Registrant) By: /s/ BRIAN D. STEWART ----- (Brian D. Stewart, Secretary) Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following person in the capacities and on the dates indicated. Signatures Title Date ------/s/ TERRY K. GLENN* President (Principal Executive ----- Officer) and Director (Terry K. Glenn) /s/ DONALD C. BURKE* Vice President and Treasurer ----- (Principal Financial and (Donald C. Burke) Accounting Officer) /s/ DONALD W. BURTON* Director ----- (Donald W. Burton) /s/ M. COLYER CRUM* Director ----- (M. Colyer Crum) /s/ LAURIE SIMON HODRICK* Director ------ (Laurie Simon Hodrick) /s/ FRED G. WEISS* Director ----- (Fred G. Weiss) *By: /s/ BRIAN D. STEWART July 29, 2003 ----- Brian D. Stewart, Attorney-in-Fact C-6 Exhibit Index Exhibit Description ---------- (l) -- Opinion and Consent of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP. (n) -- Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent auditors for the Registrant. (p) -- Certificate of Fund Asset Management, L.P. C-7